

Garden and Orchard.

How to Grow the Cauliflower.

I have been successful in raising cauliflower, and as there appears to be want of success—so far as I am acquainted—I will give you my method of cultivation. I sow my seed in the open air at the same time I do for cabbage. I am not anxious to raise hot-bed plants, for I find they do not do as well in our long hot seasons as later ones. In June, I spade up a bed of strawberries, which had just yielded its last picking of fruit, burying the tops deep in the soil, and the same day set out the ground with cauliflower. They did well, forming fine curd-like heads of fair size; and, although the season was one of long continuous drouth, they did well, nearly all forming handsome heads, some of which were very large. I also planted between the rows of early potatoes. After the potatoes were dug they had the ground to themselves. I set the plants about four feet apart each way and about one foot below the surface of the ground in rich soil, with a liberal supply of ashes mixed through it. Stir the ground often, drawing the mellow soil around the plant. If the plants do well they completely cover the ground. In the heat of the summer I mulch with green grass or weeds—never water, but sometimes flood them well with soapuds. In this way I generally get very fine heads.—*Fruit Recorder.*

How to Train Tomato Vines.

C. G. T., writing to the Country Gentleman—In all my experience and observation in the cultivation of the tomato plant, I have never seen so profitable a way as is practiced by my next neighbor. When his ground is made ready he sets the plants in rows about four feet apart and three feet in the row. When about a foot high he places a stake about six feet long firmly driven into the ground, leaving about four and a half feet above ground. To these stakes the stalks are tied, pains being taken as the plants grow to have a crotch at or near the ground. As these two branches grow he entwines them about the stake. When any branches start out of the main stalks, they are allowed to grow only a few inches long, then headed in by taking off the terminal buds. In that way many side branches are furnished for bearing.

When planted in this way, the plants are easily cultivated; light and air freely circulate in every part. The tomatoes being thus favored grow very large, and being so far above ground, are free from dirt, and all washing and cleaning are avoided. They are ready for market when picked. Where there is not a suitable branch formed near the ground, one stalk is wound around the stake, and does very well. When the stalks reach the top of the stake they are not allowed to go higher.

My neighbor tells me that in a good growing season he has picked from half a bushel to three pecks from each average stake, and no larger or smoother tomatoes than his appear in the market. He also tells me that he would rather have the stakes taller than shorter. In this way of training the stalks, the fruit is ripe two weeks earlier than by the low way of training. The object of this trimming is to induce growth of fruit instead of unnecessary branches. When the stalks are in rapid growth, trimming is needed once in 10 or 12 days. In this way he has raised at the rate of 1,200 to 1,500 bushels per acre.

The watermelon contains about ninety-five per cent. of the purest water, and a trace of the purest sugar, and nothing has yet been discovered that furnishes so perfect and speedy a "cure" for summer complaint as watermelon, and nothing else. Even when diarrhea has been kept up by continued eating of ordinary food, until the disease has become chronic, this delicious beverage—for it is little more—watermelon, taken freely two or three times a day, has again and again been known to work wonders, and to "cure" when all the usual remedies had failed.—[Food and Health.

Mildew on the grape is related to the potato rot fungus, and has the same frost-like appearance on the under side of the leaves when they are first attacked. Mildew appears from the first of June to September, and sulphur applied to the under side of the leaves by a bellows, is the common remedy. Strong, thick-leaved varieties are most free from the disease.

Injurious Fungi.

The black knot is not, as many have supposed, the work of the curculio, but of a fungus that lives within the cells of the living parts. Prof. Farlow, while studying the black knot, did indeed find insects in the excrescences, but they were of several species, and doubtless made the knot their homes; but in every case he found the threads of a certain species of fungi, and one which is found nowhere else except in the black knot. The enlarged spots produce two different kinds of spores, as does the wheat plant fungus, one kind germinating in the spring during the growth of the warts, the other living through the winter. As the black knot will spread if left to itself, the knife should be freely used, and every diseased part burned.

Marketing Small Fruits.

A visit to our markets in summer ought to convince fruit growers of the advantages of properly handling and packing fruit. The great difference in price of fruit of the same variety, but differently handled, should be a sufficient lesson. The first step to be taken by the grower is to provide proper packages and of just measure, whether barrels, baskets, or whatever they may be. See that they are perfectly clean and in good order. Don't put your fruit in broken packages. The second is the gathering of the fruit, which should be gathered before quite ripe, and be all hand picked. Don't put a layer or two of fine fruit at the bottom of the package, then fill in the middle with inferior fruit, and then another layer or two of fine fruit on the top, but select your fruit and pack the small and inferior by itself and sell as inferior fruit. This will give satisfaction to your customers and a much better price should be obtained, and if your name is marked on the packages your brand will be eagerly sought for by buyers, especially if of honest measure.

Be Careful with the Cherry Trees.

Every cherry grower must be fully aware of the great necessity to observe the utmost care in protecting cherry trees from injury of any kind, especially bruises. It is, therefore, not for them, but for those who do not know, that we give these hints. A blow of the hoe, the scraping or barking by the swingletree in plowing or harrowing, or even by the kick from the heel of a boot, will almost invariably cause damage that the tree will never outgrow. A kind of gangrene sets in, which all the efforts of the tree, however young and vigorous it may be, will never recover from. We had a Downton tree as thick as a man's arm, which having a few ripe cherries that we wished to jar off to taste, it being the first fruiting, we struck the trunk with the neel of the boot, which broke through the bark. It seemed to be so trifling as not to be worth a thought; but the following year the bark was dead two inches in diameter. The following year it was three inches, and in four or five years after one-half of the wood was exposed and dead; and in a year or two more the tree itself died, clearly from the one slight blow of a boot.

Effects of Cold Weather on Blossoms.

Nature wonderfully protects a partially opened flower from injury by frost or cold weather. Unreasonable as it may appear to some, it is a well demonstrated fact that a partially opened pear blossom will withstand, uninjured, a degree of cold that will kill the matured leaf of both the pear and apple tree, and in fact, that of both the cabbage and turnip. Careful observation has taught that fruit growers have nothing to fear of injury to blossoms in the spring by frosts, until the blossom is fully expanded; but when a blossom arrives to this stage of its growth, even a slight frost, if it touches the bloom, is sure death to it. We have seen partially opened blossoms covered with snow, and receive no injury.

Nature has wonderful ways of protecting her productions. Especially is this true of plants, before the work of production has taken place. A little tobacco plant, not longer than a pin's head, will withstand, uninjured, a degree of cold that would kill a large plant after it has blossomed. A blossom that starts in the autumn enough to loosen the gum that cements the outer covering of leaves together, will not be injured until subjected to a degree of cold that is about 20° below the freezing point.

Irrigated Strawberries.

Often when writing of strawberry culture we have remarked that nothing seemed to make strawberries swell so rapidly, and produce a large crop of fine fruit, as two or three thorough soakings of water just when the fruit was about half-grown. Almost all fruit-trees, about the time the fruit is swelling, require an enormous amount of moisture, as so much water is required to make up the juicy parts of plants. But most trees have some roots that go down some distance below the surface, where the moisture is more regular than near the top of the ground. The strawberry, in proportion to the total weight of the whole plant, has probably to collect more moisture for its fruit than almost any other plant; hence its roots, small and fibrous, do not go many inches below the surface, and are thus peculiarly sensitive to a lack of moisture in a dry time.

This hint it is well for those who cultivate the strawberry for domestic consumption to bear in mind. They will find if these waterings are abundant and thorough—not mere sprinklings from the rose of a watering-pot, but copiously from the spout, so as really to flood or overflow the bed—they will be repaid so liberally as to wonder that somebody had not told them about it before.

Rose Culture.

The best time to plant cuttings is when the new wood has become just hardened enough to snap off easily. Often the stem, with a few leaves upon it, of a rose that has just fallen will make a good cutting. Plant them in a sandy soil, and if in a hot-bed so much the better, as bottom heat is a great advantage; or plant in a shallow pot, with fresh horse manure at the bottom of it; then a layer of good compost, and at the top an inch of scouring sand. Wet the whole thoroughly, with hot water, and when the sand has cooled put the cuttings close to the outer edge of the pot and press the wet sand close around them. There must always be an eye or bud at or near the base of the cutting. Keep the sand moist all the time. If you have a bell-glass to put over the pot it will keep the sand moist and make the cuttings sprout quickly. When the leaves have well developed pot the plants in small pots, with rich sandy soil. In hot weather, shade your roses with boughs, or much the ground with coarse manure. Always water them well every night. June is the best month for amateurs to start cuttings of all kinds.

Remedy for the Maggot of the Cabbage Fly.

How is it applied?—The use of Bisulphide of Carbon is not only recommended for the cabbage maggot, but also for the squash borer, and other subterranean insects. It would serve admirably to destroy ants when you can find their hills. To apply the liquid, we have only to make a small hole, by use of a cane or other small rod, close beside the plant to a depth of two or three inches, then pour into the hole a teaspoonful of the fluid, and quickly cover the same by filling the hole with earth, and pressing it down with the foot. The same operation in the middle of an ant hill will quickly destroy the ants if they are in the galleries of the hill. All should remember that Bisulphide of Carbon and also its vapor, are very inflammable, and should always be used with great care.—[Ex.

TO KILL CABBAGE WORMS.—Sprinkle a good shower of middlings, which any farmer can procure from their grist mill, over the cabbage in the morning, when the dew is still on the ground. These worms eat this, and it appears to sour in their bodies and kills them in a short time. After rain or a dry spell, repeat this operation for any worms left. J. H., Campden P. O., Ont.

POTATO BEETLES.—There are many statements going about to the effect that lime dust, from the roads, wood ashes, and other similar substances will drive away the potato beetles. These are all mistakes. Nothing but Paris green or some other strong poison will kill them, and they cannot be driven away. Every one who grows potatoes should make it a business to kill every beetle that he can, as soon as he can and as quick as he can, and that will greatly help to exterminate these pests.