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Petrolia Chatham

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IHC Service Bureau

The purpose of this Bureau is to furnish, free of charge to all, the best information obtainable on better farming. If you have any worthy questions concerning soils, crops, land drainage, irrigation, fertilizer, etc., make your inquiries specific and send them to IHC Service Bureau, Harvester Building, Chicago, U.S.A.



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B-1-12

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MY LADY'S GARDEN

Late Planting of Fruits

By A. C. BLAIR

THE date for planting fruit trees depends solely upon the conditions of the tree at the time it is planted. If it is truly dormant it can be planted at any time, and it will grow, even though the planting may not be until midsummer. If, on the other hand, its buds have appeared, or its leaves have started to expand, it will be less likely to live, even though it should be planted very early. In planting trees on which the leaves have appeared, it is best to cut these back severely, and remove the advancing foliage, giving the tree opportunity to push forth more dormant buds after their roots have started.

It is the custom for extensive nurserymen to keep trees in cold storage and often shipments are made late from such trees. It is safe to plant them, even though it may be late in the year. The earliest trees should be the cherry. This is less liable to live if planted late than any other. The peach, on the other hand, can be planted very late, and if cut back severely, will be in as good condition as though planted early.

The greatest objection to the late planting of trees is that they are liable to have started growth late in the season, and are injured by being transplanted after the growth is started. The greatest objection to the late planting of dormant trees is that the growing season is thus shortened, and unless the growth is stimulated by good fertilizers and cultivation, this may be very feeble, and the tree may not gain strength enough to make it resistant to the destructive effects of the winter. Trees planted very late are quite liable to be weakly and easily winter-killed. It is the feeble trees that are thus damaged. The greatest security against winter injury is a strong, vigorous growth of good thick twigs and healthy buds well matured before the severe weather comes. Early planting, proper fertilization and cultivation are the best means of securing this. The first winter is often the hardest winter on the young trees. The earlier in the spring all trees, bushes and shrubs are transplanted the better it will be to insure their starting right, and making a good growth during the summer.

the soil so that the root may be pulled out whole. Do not be content with simply cutting off the crown of the plant below the surface of the soil, but as deeply as possible. After using the spud, immediately use a pounder to fill up the holes that otherwise would afford lodgement for weed seeds that are blowing about freely. These spots may also be seeded with grass seed to advantage.

Dandelions may be treated with chemicals with good effect. A few drops of sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) poured on the crown of each plant usually will kill them. Spraying is also advocated for killing young dandelion plants. A 20 per cent. solution of sulphate of iron is used. Dissolve two pounds of sulphate of iron in a gallon of water, stirring with a stick to hasten solution. Apply with a hand sprayer. Use one gallon of this solution to one square rod of greensward. A second application may be necessary. The grass will be blackened and appear killed but in a few days it will recover and grow with increased vigor. Old dandelion plants cannot be killed by spraying. On these, apply dry sulphate of iron to the heart of the old plant. If this is repeated once or twice, it will kill them. Where the lawn is large and the dandelions plentiful, either of the foregoing operations may require too much time and expense. In such cases, the only thing to do is to plough up the turf and make the lawn over again.

Weeds are more prevalent on thin lawns than on those that are thick and velvety. By improving the turf, by means of fertilizing and additional seeding to thicken it, most weeds will disappear. Keep the mower going as it will do much towards keeping down most weeds.

Save the Old Bulbs

HYACINTH, tulip and narcissus bulbs can be stored during the summer for fall planting. Your stock can be increased by proper care and the saving in expense is considerable.

Easy as it is to keep the hardy Dutch bulbs—that is tulips, hyacinths, and narcissus, and especially the two first named—from year to year, most amateurs saddle themselves with unnecessary expense by digging them up and throwing them away after they have done flowering, and then buying new ones to plant out the following October. If you want purely bedding effects, where every bulb should be of uniform size and quality and you are only dealing with small quantities, it will certainly be best to buy afresh each season, getting selected bulbs of first size. But for ordinary border planting you can keep them over from year to year and increase your stock by a very simple method.

The great secret of successful bulb culture is to leave them alone after flowering and let the foliage ripen fully. Do not be in a hurry to disturb them until the foliage has become distinctly yellowed and begins to shrivel. When the foliage shows these conditions, it is a sign that the bulb has ripened and growth has ceased for the season; it can now be lifted from the ground without suffering any damage. Indeed, by proper handling, it will be improved.

Some time, during the present month generally, it will be safe to lift tulips and hyacinth bulbs and spread them out in an airy, shaded place to dry. Do not place them in full sunshine, but out doors under the shade of trees or in the shelter of a building. Let them ripen or cure here. When the foliage is carefully withered, curing will be complete. They can then be stored away in boxes in a cool place, where there is plenty of fresh air and free circulation. Everything depends on keeping them properly now. In a damp, badly ventilated place they will usually rot. In an overheated, excessively dry place, such as a furnace room, they will be completely shriveled. Keep them in a normal temperature and leave them until the fall.

In September, when garden work outdoors has generally ceased, will be time to attend to the bulbs. They can then be cleaned. The old stems will be perfectly dry and will crumble to dust as the bulbs are rubbed through the fingers.

Watering the Lawn

WATERING is an important factor in the successful treatment of lawns. Constant moisture is essential for vigor and color in the turf. When the proper conditions in soil and seed treatment have been complied with, there need be no failure with the lawn if it is situated where there is a good water supply. Lawns in the cities and in the country, if practicable, should have a generous provision for artificial waterings.

It is best to apply the water towards evening or in the early morning. Give a good soaking. It is useless merely to sprinkle the grass. The water must be applied in sufficient quantities to percolate into the soil down to and below the grass roots.

Weeding Lawns

By A. B. CUTTING

IN many lawns, weeds are persistent nuisances. No matter how careful has been the selection of seeds and fertilizers, weeds will make their appearance. Frequent mowings will destroy many young weeds, but too frequent cuttings in dry weather often weaken the grass and sometimes weeds get the upper hand.

In a newly made lawn it is necessary to keep a careful watch on the weeds. They should not be allowed to get a sufficient start to make them troublesome. Dandelions, narrow leaved plantains, docks and weeds of that class can scarcely be gotten rid of except by spudding, and unless this operation is performed when the weeds are young, it may not be satisfactory, especially in the case of dandelions. A spud may be purchased at a hardware store or from seedsmen. Run the instrument (which resembles a wide screw driver or chisel) downward alongside of the root to loosen

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