

If you are making a pergola, it is a good plan to paint the bottom of the posts with either tar or creosote. This will make them last ever so much longer. If you use tar shake or throw a lot of fine sand on to the painted part. This will help make the soil stick round it more.

If you have ivy growing up the walls of your home, be sure and water this regularly. It always gets very dry and makes a perfect home for spiders, more particularly the little red spider, which does a lot of damage. These pests hate water and run away from it. Usually being under the eaves of the house ivy does not get its share of the rain.

During the winter always put your ferns out of doors when it is raining. Keep them there for about two hours. This must not be done, however, when there is any danger of frost. The rain not only refreshes them, but also the air does a lot of good. This also applies to the aspidistra.

When the tips of the leaves of your aspidistra, or the tips of the fronds of the ferns begin to turn brown, it is a sign that they need repotting. This should be done as soon as possible, but if it is not possible at that particular time, give them a slight watering with soot water. This should be put on the soil and not the leaves.

If you have a dry wall and want to plant seeds in some of the crevices, a good plan is to blow them in. This is easily done by putting a few seeds at the end of a glass tube, and blowing hard. Then throw a little soil in on top of them. Another way is to put the seeds in a damp ball of earth and push the ball where you want the seeds to be. There are many things that can be planted in such a manner, such as aubretia, some of the phloxes, and pinks.

Do not throw any old broom or long-handled tool handles away. These are invaluable for staking some of the larger plants in the garden. They should however be given a coat of green paint, so that they will not stand out amongst the natural color of the plants. The green will make them less noticeable.

There is one thing in gardening that must never be forgotten, and that is always keep the hoe working, or in other words, cultivate, and then cultivate some more. Even if you are just passing through your garden and see a weed, stop a second and pull it out by the roots. You will kill the weed and disturb the soil, which is another word for cultivation.

If you have a lawn or piece of grass that has been over-run with dandelions or plantains, and it is so bad that it is almost impossible to take them out by hand, put a pinch of sulphate of ammonia in the centre of each plant. This will burn them up, and you will have no more trouble with them. Of course, the following fall you will have to add more soil and sow some more grass seed.

When you have finished with your pea sticks or runner bean poles lift them from the ground as soon as possible. Be sure and shake all the soil from the ends and put them away for the winter. The easiest way to keep them is in a wedge made of two fairly firm branches of a tree. This will keep them off the ground and allow the air to get at them,