

twigs, taken only from good stock that will produce a thrifty growth.

Pear Trees Not Bearing Fruit.

SIR,—I have two pear trees, a Sheldon and a Beurre Hardy, which are in a thriving condition only the fruit does not come to perfection. It comes to about quarter size and then stops growth. I have other trees beside them which do all right. I have been advised to take away the earth about the trunk and put in about two bushels of hard wood ashes.

JAS. WEIR, 243 Emerald St., Hamilton.

A definite answer cannot be given without seeing the trees. Generally speaking small sized and knotted fruit grows on trees that are somewhat stunted in growth, and any treatment that would tend to restore vigor should correct the evil. We would advise a severe cutting back, a thorough cultivation of the soil five or six feet every way from the trunks and digging in it good rotten stable manure. Fresh hard-wood ashes applied in contact with the trunk would be injurious; if applied, it should be sown over the surface of the ground.

Latania (Palm) Failing.

SIR,—I have a palm that I prize very highly, and very much fear I am going to lose. The leaves seem to dry and wither. I found a few earth worms in the soil. It is a *Latania Borbonica*, about eight years old. Any directions for its restoration to health will be thankfully received.

G. PARKER, Stirling.

From the particulars given of the condition of the Palm, *Latania Borbonica*, referred to in the above question, I should suppose that imperfect drainage or sour soil is probably the cause of the trouble, as either coal gas or excessive dryness of the roots, unless of a very severe nature, would not cause the whole of the leaves to dry and wither as described. The fact of wire worms being found in the soil also indicates imperfect drainage, and consequently there is no root action to sustain growth.

I would advise repotting the plant at once into a pot one, or perhaps two sizes smaller than the plant is in at present, the size of the pot must depend on the amount of healthy roots the plant has; before repotting shake all the old soil

away from the roots, and cut away dead or any badly withered foliage, as well as all rotten or decayed roots, and repot into a compost made up of two parts of well rotted loamy sod, well mixed with one part of clean rinse sand, or better still, lake sand, and one part of well rotted leaf soil; use plenty of drainage at the bottom of the pot, pieces of broken flower pots being best for that purpose, over this put some pieces of coarse fibry around the roots; when potting press the soil firmly around the roots and give sufficient water to well moisten all the soil in the pot. Water must be given sparingly afterwards, until root action has well commenced, and only give water then when the soil appears dry on the top; when water is given, give sufficient water to well moisten all the soil, but don't keep the soil saturated all the time, as over watering is quite as injurious as insufficient watering, especially when there is very little root action to absorb the excess of moisture.

WM. HUNT, Hamilton.

Brugmansia Arborea.

SIR,—Will you kindly tell me how to grow *Brugmansia arborea*? I received a fine plant from Steele, Briggs Co. last spring, but since then it done no good. It puts out new leaves but they turn yellow and drop off, and the stock does not seem to grow. It is in good rich soil now.

P. S. HUSBAND, Oakville.

Brugmansia arborea belongs to the shrubby class of *Brugmansias* or *Daturas*; they are easily propagated from the young growth in spring or early summer. Cuttings of young growth with a small thin piece of the old wood attached to the base of the cutting (called a heel), are best if obtainable, these root readily if inserted about two inches deep in sand, three or four cuttings in a four inch pot, and kept in a window or hot bed, in a temperature of about 65°, keeping them shaded from hot sun for a few days. When rooted they can be potted singly into four inch pots in loamy soil with a good mixture of sand and leaf soil added; they will require liberal treatment during the summer, repotting them into pots fully two sizes larger each time, a good rich loamy soil, without sand or leaf soil, will suit them at this stage. When the plants