

NOTICE—Our Office is removed to Dundas Street, nearly Opposite the City Hotel.

Written for the Farmer's Advocate.

Fruit Garden—Hints for April.

By G. ALEX. PONTY.

Pruning all kinds of fruit, if not yet done, should be attended to at once, and we may add here that no tree should be allowed to go so long unpruned as to require a saw to remove the branches. Every season they should be gone over, and every unruly branch cut out with the aid of a good knife alone.

Strawberries, where covered during the winter, should have the covering removed as soon as possible, so that the sun may have full opportunity to do his share in producing an early crop.

Out-door grafting will be in season the end of this month, but as a general rule it is better to plant out afresh than to top-graft an old orchard.

In planting out small Fruits, say Raspberries, Blackberries, Gooseberries and Currants, care should be taken to cut back severely, the two former to within five or six inches of the ground, and the latter to within two or three buds at the base of the former year's growth. And it may be said of all fruit trees, they should be severely pruned at planting, and every other means resorted to to procure a vigorous healthy growth. Healthy fine fruit is the result of healthy growth the previous season, and it is useless to hope for the former without the latter has been obtained. If any fruit sets in a transplanted tree it should be pulled off, no matter at what cost to the feelings.

While it would be impossible to recommend to our readers the BEST fruits to grow, local circumstances having so much to do with the matter, still the following six in each class will be found desirable, and to be relied upon:—

APPLES—Early Harvest and Red Astracan for early; St. Lawrence and Alexander for fall; Baldwin and Rhode Island Greening for winter. Apple for Dwarfs—Gravenstein, Red Astracan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Sweet Bough, Fall Pippin, Indian Rarissime.

PEARS—Bartlett, Flemish Beauty, Louis Bonne de Jersey, Buffam, White Doyenne, Madeleine.

CHERRIES—May Duke, Morello, Elton, Black Tartarian, Early Richmond, Biggarreau.

PLUMS—Lombard, Green Gage, Washington, Yellow Egg, Yellow Gage, Smith's Orleans.

GRAPES—Concord, Delaware, Hartford Prolific, Diana, Clinton, Adirondac.

CURRENTS—White Grape, Red Cherry, Short-bunched Red, La Versailles, Red Grape, Black Naples.

RASPBERRIES—Brinkley's Orange, Franconia, Belle de Fontenay, Philadelphia, Red Antwerp, Fastloff.

STRAWBERRIES—Wilson's Albany, Triomphe de Gaud, Early Scarlet, Trollop's Victoria, Hooker, Agriculturist.

We believe the best time to prune an orchard, where the saw requires to be used, (and that is in nearly every farmer's orchard in this locality) is the first part of this month. We intend having ours pruned about that time. Our time and attention have been devoted to your paper for the past four years, and our own orchard has been more neglected during that time than ever before, as we used to do the pruning ourselves, and sometimes have taken off a few straggling twigs since.—EDITOR.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Vegetable Garden.—April Hints.

By G. ALEX. PONTY.

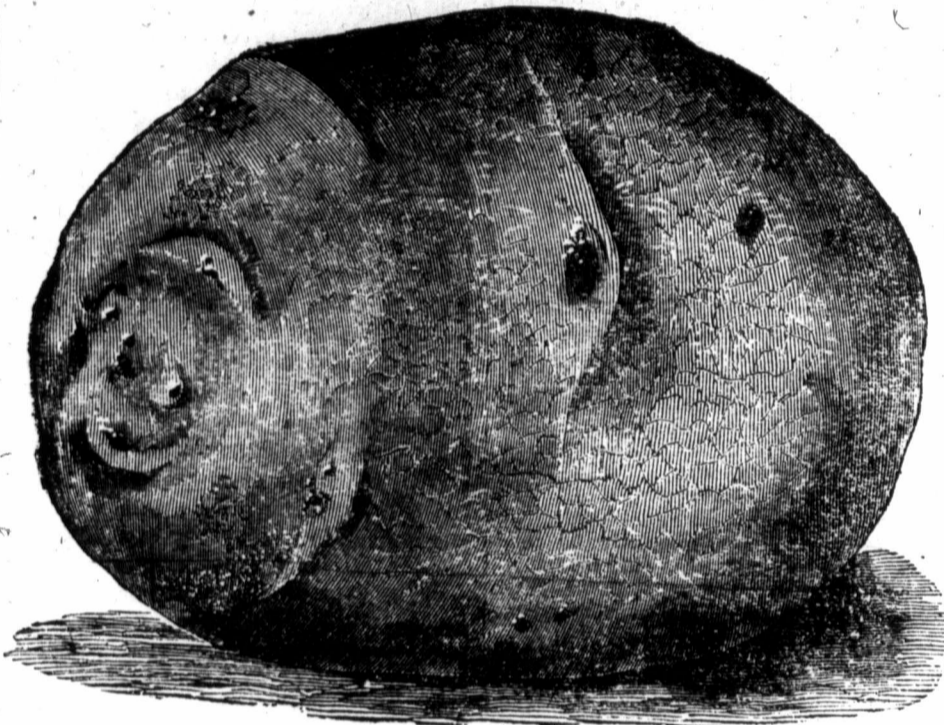
There is nothing so acceptable as early Vegetables, and the most useful aid to this is a hot-bed. Every farmer should have one of two or more lights; the sashes can be procured, ready for glazing, at \$1 each, six feet by three, glass for the same costing about 60 cents each sash. For general purposes the first week in April is early enough to start the hot-bed. Long stable manure should be employed, and if it can be turned over twice before making into the bed all the better, as the heat will then be more regular and last longer. Choose a south-easterly aspect, and one sheltered from winds on the cold quarter; make the foundation of the bed eighteen inches or two feet larger than the frame to be set on it when finished; shake the manure out well, and tramp moderately, until the height of three feet has been obtained, when the frame may be set on. The frame should be 2½ feet high at back and 1 foot in front, and made to take 2, 3, or 4 sashes,

as required. It is desirable to have a partition in the middle, where our bed has to answer all purposes, so that air can be given freely to radishes, lettuce, &c., and not interfere with cucumbers and melons, which require a stronger heat. Soil to the depth of five or six inches must cover the manure, and the bed allowed to stand for a few days until the very violent heat has passed off.

When the bed shows signs of getting cold, cut down the sides even with the frame, and replace with fresh manure to the thickness of eighteen inches or two feet.

Sow Peppers, Egg-Plant, Tomato, Cucumber, Melon, Early Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Radishes, Lettuce, Annuals, and start Dahlia roots; cuttings of the latter can be taken off when about two or three inches long, and struck in small pots, one cutting to a pot, keeping them well supplied with heat and shaded for the first week.

Keyes' Early and Cedar Hill are both very good varieties of Tomato, the former noticeable for its peculiar leaf and comparatively small amount of top, and the latter for its extra size and fine quality; both are red varieties.



Cucumber seed four or five years old, or even older, is to be preferred for culture under glass, running less to vine, being shorter between joints, and consequently more prolific. Cuthill's Black Spine, Lion House and Highland Mary are good old varieties.

Of Cauliflowers, Extra Early Paris, for very early, and Demidoff for general crop, are as good as can be desired.

Celery, Turner's Incomparable, Solid Dwarf White, as good as any variety yet tested.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Osgoode, March 22, 1870.

WM. WELD, Esq.—Sir—I take the liberty of asking your advice as to the best way of getting rid of wild oats, with which my farm, and also the farms of the surrounding neighborhood, are becoming polluted. I think we got it in seed grain, and the quality it possesses of sticking to anything renders it liable to be carried all over the country. For instance, it almost chokes up the sieves of the threshing machine where it sticks, and in this way are carried to the surrounding farms. They are so very prolific, that in a few years it will require a great amount of labor to destroy them, if it would be at all possible.

Hoping you will answer through the columns of your justly popular paper, or by private letter,

I remain, yours, &c.

WM. MCKENZIE,
Vernon P. O., Ont.

We have no wild oats in this vicinity, and never procure seed from land on which it is growing. We have no personal experience, but believe it to be the worst weed to eradicate. We have not yet heard of its being to-

tally destroyed where once introduced. Perhaps some of our readers would supply the desired information. We would be happy to publish anything in regard to the destruction of this pest.

Bresses' Prolific Potatoe.

The above cut represents Bresses' Prolific Potatoe. It is not so expensive as the King of the Earlys. We have not yet tested either of these two expensive varieties, but intend doing so this season. We have expended money enough in testing various kinds, without paying \$50 for one potatoe. See account of potatoe in another part of our paper.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Greek Fire for the Girls.

Come, come, girls! Not at work yet? Why this is March: month after next, May; two months after that July. Half the summer gone and nothing done yet. Are you going to let the boys wear their cloth and fur caps all summer? Oh, fie, no! You will have all their good looks burnt off their faces, and their brains parboiled until they will become dunces. Out you go to the barn, and get a nice sheaf of wheat or oats, and clean it. If you had not forethought enough to save some before the threshing was done, then off to some neighbor and beg some. What (beg pardon) what is that I hear? You can't plait hats? Well now's the time to learn. If you come to me I'll show you in a minute.

The straw is mostly pretty dark this year on account of so much rain last summer; so send one of the boys to the bush for some butternut

or soft maple bark and color your braided straw a nice brown or drab. Then away to the apothecary's and get 1oz. of extract of logwood and ½ oz. blue vitriol or copperas and dye some straw black.

Now braid two straws black and five white, being careful to join black on black and white on white. You will have pretty speckled hats, which, when pressed and bound with black ribbon, will look nicely for Sundays.

Don't forget yourselves, girls. Make good broad-rimmed hats, so that you need not fear either wind, or rain, or sunshine.

The best time to cut straw for hats is when the wheat is in bloom. Scald and bleach in the sun, being careful not to let the rain fall on it. If your papa won't let you cut his green wheat, just sow a patch on your own account, and see that you attend to it next summer.

I suppose some of you will wish "I could attend to my own affairs." But now is the time to do such work, before the gardening begins. I am not going to allow you to sleep all winter and to "roast" all summer. Don't dye any of your hats black, because black draws the heat.

N. B.—Don't forget to knit a cargo of cotton stockings.

From your wide awake friend,
I. F. ISCH.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Erin, March 24, 1870.

MR. WELD.—Dear Sir—As you were desirous of hearing from me again, and also requested through your paper any person knowing of any kind of spring wheat that yielded well to let you know, I wish to state that we have two good kinds in our neighborhood. They are the Mammoth and Swamp Wheat. The Mammoth Wheat, a few grains of which I send you in the letter, yielded 25 bushels to the acre; the Swamp Wheat, so called from its being better adapted to low land, yielded from 20 to 25 bushels to the acre. It does not rust. You may have seen both of these varieties before, but if not, and you wish to procure a small quantity to test, I will be able to supply you. The Swamp Wheat will be sown pretty extensively this Spring on low land, as it grows short and stout in the stem, and does not rust. I know of only two farmers in the neighborhood who have the Mammoth Wheat. They procured a small quantity last spring. I think it came from New York. I intend sowing a little of it this spring.

Yours respectfully,
GEORGE T. ROGERS.

I will feel obliged if you forward me samples to test. I may have them both, under different names. If you have them clean, and they do well this season, let me know what quantity you can spare me early next year. Is there any wild oats on your farm. It is now too late for me to advertise them this year, as my paper is now about to be printed.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

A Prize.

Westminster, March 25, 1870.

WM. WELD, Esq.—I herewith send you a package containing three potatoe of each of the following varieties, viz.:—Bresse's Prolific, Early Handsworth, Ash Top Fluke, London White, Early Rose, Early Goodrich and Harrison; these varieties have done well with me the past season. The package to be given to the person who sends you the most subscribers to the *Farmer's Advocate*, by the second week in May, as I believe your paper is doing a great deal of good to farmers by calling their attention to the most profitable varieties of seed.

I have cultivated a good many of the new varieties of tomatoe that have been introduced these few years past. The one introduced last spring, called General Grant Tomato, is, I think, the most solid and smoothest tomatoe that has yet been introduced.

I remain, respectfully yours,

JOHN MACKENZIE.

Mr. Mackenzie will please accept our thanks for the interest he takes in our behalf. He is the leading potatoe man in his township, he knows more about potatoe than any one we have met in this city. The potatoe are now in our office ready for delivery. Who will gain them?