

WINTER PROTECTION OF ROSES.

Our object in covering roses during winter is principally to prevent a too rapid thawing of the frozen buds and wood; 16° to 20° of frost will not injure the H. P. roses during their winter resting period. It is the action of the sun's heat upon the frozen wood and buds which does the injury, so that whatever method we adopt for covering our roses in winter, it should be such as will prevent severe freezing of the wood and buds, and, if frozen, to prevent rapid thawing.

During the winter, while going through the garden of a neighbor who has a few hundred roses, I noticed he had carefully wrapped or thatched each rose bush with straw. The method has a neat appearance, and certainly answers the purpose well, for his roses now (May 10) are in excellent condition. This method of winter protection, however, occupies more time than rose growers on a more extensive scale would care to give to the work, nor is it at all necessary, for equally good, or better, results are obtained by more simple methods, the work at the same time being done much more rapidly.

The method we adopt here at Wideneth is the same as practiced by Mr. Henry W. Sargent nearly half a century ago, and satisfactory results are always obtained,

PROTECTIVE METHODS.—About November 20, or before the ground is frozen, the rose growths are shortened, leaving about 18 inches of the current season's growth. Soil is then thrown up around each plant, the mound being made sufficiently high to cover at least six to eight inches of the current season's wood. Our roses being planted from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet apart, there is no difficulty in obtaining sufficient soil for this purpose.

The close pruning, too, which is practised here, facilitates this method of winter protection. After the roses are earthed up, the rose beds are given a good mulching of half rotted cow manure; this serves the double purpose of protecting the roots, which, after the removal of so much soil, will be near the surface, and also by being dissolved by the thawed snow, supplies the necessary food in an available form for the plants to take up when they commence to grow in the early spring.

This method of wintering roses should recommend itself to all gardeners in private gardens, there being no straw or leaves to litter the lawn. It is easily and quickly done, and there is nothing to displease the eye or make the garden unsightly.

The same cannot be said for the heaps of leaves and brush one can so often see used for covering rose beds.

HYBRID PERPETUALS.—In wintering the Hybrid Perpetual roses, it is quite unnecessary to go to the trouble of pegging down the shoots and then covering with a foot of leaves. The earthing up method will be found equally satisfactory