

## \* Open Letters. \*

### Spraying Trees.

SIR,—I notice that Mr. A. W. Graham had poor success in spraying his trees. My experience differs from his. I began spraying my plum trees just after the blossoms began to fall, and sprayed them three weeks, once each week, with Paris Green. My sprayer was a brass syringe, which did very good work. The result was, that I got forty baskets of large plums from twelve trees; General Hand and Bradshaw sold for \$1.00 per basket, and the Reine Claude and Lombard for 75 cents. They took two first prizes at East York township fair, and two at Markham fair. In a previous season when I did not spray I had a very poor crop of plums, and my neighbor who did not spray last year, as a result has to pick his plums before they were ripe, because they rotted so badly and dropped of.

THOS. GARDINER, *Eglington, York Co.*

### Zanzibar Water Lilies.

SIR,—We derived great pleasure from our water lilies last year. Our tank is six feet across and eight inches deep, and in this we place six inches of rich soil—an old hotbed bottom would furnish the right thing. In the tank we put six plants in the first week in June, and in about two weeks the first flowers were open, and the plants continued blooming until the first frost in winter. There were from six to ten flowers open every day; the flowers opened in the morning and closed in the evening. We had one plant in a wooden pail and it bloomed, but the flower was small; one of those in the tank measured eight inches across, while that in the pail was only three inches. In some respects the flower is not equal to our *Nymphaea odorata*, but the easy manner of growing them places them a long way ahead of our natives. You have only to put the seed in a bowl or open dish in which is placed a couple of inches of soil, and keep it covered with water at a temperature of 70° or 80°, and in about two weeks they will have started to grow. At first the growth is slow and the leaves were only about two inches across when I planted ours out in June.

E. W. BOWLAUGH, *Kingsville, Ont.*

### Judging Onions.

SIR,—For over thirty years I have exhibited onions at our township show, both from seed and the English Potato onion. Now I claim that if the prize list calls for (as ours does) 6 onions, red, white and yellow from seed, then 6 onions, "English Potato," that the intention of the directors is that the exhibit shall consist of six perfectly grown single onions. Some few years ago a party sent six bunches, but as there were five entries of single onions he got no prize. If bunches are to be shown, then I claim that the prize list should call for one peck of English Potato onions for planting; in that case I should pick out the best developed bunches, containing each at least eight small onions of good shape, as there is a great difference between a good sample and a poor one. Then I claim that a well grown single Potato onion can be known from any yellow onion from seed, particularly the Danvers, which is a pale yellow, for there are two very distinct peculiarities in a Potato onion when ripe and matured; first, you will find the yellow marking on the outside leaves to be darker, having a tinge of color different from other yellow onions; second, the first few outside leaves are always dry and feel like paper, and when ripe are always detached from the neck.

CHAS. JAS. FOX, *Delaware.*