

Directions About Lawns.

If the surface is rough, there are two ways of making it smooth and even. The first is by breaking up the whole ground, working and reworking till fine and mellow, and then reseeding or returfing. If the ground is resceded, sow at the rate of at least two bushels of grass seed per acre, and roll or brush it in. Red-top, white clover and Kentucky blue grass will give a good green carpet. If returfed, make the bare surface perfectly even and level; cut the turf from an old, even pasture, with straight edges, by means of a stretched line, and then invert the pieces or blocks on a broad board, and scrape the earth side perfectly even by means of a sharp hoe. They will thus form an even surface when laid, and rolling will make the whole as smooth as a floor.

The second method of making an even surface, is to apply sand or fine sandy loam to the surface, and rake it level, by which it will fill up all the hollows or depressions, and the grass will grow through the sand. This is well adapted to lawns which have but slight inequalities of surface.

If the defect consists in the grass being too thin or sparse on the lawn, the whole surface may be loosened with a sharp steel rake, or a fine sharp harrow on a larger scale, and grass seed sown as already directed; and its germination will be greatly assisted if the whole surface is dressed with fine compost before sowing and raking. In some instances a better seeding will be effected by breaking up, as already described.

If the lawn is defective from the growth of coarse grass or weeds, there are two modes of treatment. One is to pull up all the weeds immediately after a long rain, when the ground is soft, or to cut them out with a spud; and the other is to summer fallow the whole ground for one season, keeping the surface stirred and clean all the time, which will kill nearly all the weeds. This is to be resorted to only in case the lawn is full of weeds, and in a rather desperate condition to warrant it.

To keep a lawn in good condition, apply a top-dressing of some fertilizer late in autumn, spreading it perfectly even. Coarse manure is objectionable for two reasons, namely:—Its repulsive character all winter when the ground is bare of snow, and the liability to scatter foul seed in this way. But, if nothing better can be had, be careful to spread it perfectly even and not leave it in lumps, as well as to rake off all the fibrous material left on the ground early in spring. Finely pulverized compost answers well, or a compost made of guano or of hen manure. The latter may be undiluted, provided it is in fine powder, or it may be made into a fine compost with road dust. On some soils, superphosphate answers well; on others it has no effect. The manure or composts may be applied in autumn; the more concentrated fertilizers early in spring.

The surface having been already made perfectly even, will require no more rolling than is given to it by the lawn-mowers.

Fall Planting of Raspberries.

It is seldom that any one expects to obtain fruit from raspberries the first year they are set out, and those who do are usually disappointed. It is therefore worse than useless to leave long canes upon the roots when planted out, for these only draw to themselves strength, which is needed to produce new ones for giving fruit the following year. The canes of all are commonly cultivated species and varieties are biennial, that is—they grow one season, produce fruit the next, then die. This being the natural habit of the raspberries, very little need be expected from the canes on the roots when transplanted, for if they put forth leaves and lateral shoots all will die before the end of the first season, no matter how careful one may be in trying to preserve them at the start. The better way, and the one usually practised, is to cut away the canes, or the greater portion, at the time of setting out, allowing all the strength of the roots to be thrown into the new canes, which must spring from them if the plants live and thrive. But as the roots of raspberries, like the currant and gooseberry, commence growing very early in the spring, or within two or three days after the frost leaves the ground, they cannot be transplanted too early if to be done at this season. The ground is seldom in a condition to work with ease sufficiently early to admit of moving these plants before growth commences, hence the advantages to be gained by planting in the fall. As we have said, it is only the roots that we care about pre-

serving the first season, and if canes are left on at the time of planting in fall, and they are killed during the winter, it is no loss, for the young shoots will be all the more vigorous the next spring. The roots are well protected in the earth, and in a position where they can grow when the season arrives without being disturbed. We would never defer the planting of raspberries until spring if it could be done in the fall, and we may add that currants, gooseberries and blackberries will succeed better if planted at this time than in spring.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Pruning the Grape.

The treatment of the vine the first year is to not let but one shoot grow, and pinch one off about the last of August so the wood will ripen up to stand our winter better. About the last of November or the first of December, I take the vine from the trellis, trim it, and bend it down and cover it from four to six inches deep in the earth, and leave them in this condition until the first or middle of April. Then I uncover the vines and wash them off clean with soapsuds, or use a force pump which answers a very good purpose to wash the dirt off and to moisten the buds so they will develop more evenly. This should be done frequently until they are well leaved out. The second year I let two shoots grow and treat them in the same manner as the first year. After the third year, you have encouraged the growth of the vine to its fullest capacity in length, say eight or ten feet, which should never be allowed to extend farther than this, on any condition whatever, for fear of letting it overbear. I have always adopted the spur mode of pruning the vine as it appears to me the most reasonable, and that is to cut off in the fall the present season's growth of the wood, to the third eye of each spur. This is the manner that I have always practiced since I commenced the cultivation of the vine, and I have been very successful in getting good fruit. If I think the vitality of the vine requires more wood, I let the end branches extend a little farther at the time of pruning, but often make mistakes in getting too much bearing wood than otherwise.

Onions Sown in Fall.

Last year we published an article by Peter Henderson, in which he gave the experience of a Long Island market gardener who sowed his onions in Autumn. We gave the plan a trial in our own garden last Fall, but the sowing was not made until the very end of September, and the young plants did not make sufficient growth to stand the very severe winter, even though they were well covered. Still the success, though only partial, was sufficient to show that this method is worthy of consideration, and from the amount that came to maturity on our bed this summer, have no doubt that it will answer whatever sets are used; but where onions can be raised directly from the seed, there will be no advantage from fall sowing except for such as are to be marketed green or very early. The idea is to sow the seed in fall at such a time as will allow the plants to form a bulb large enough to stand the winter, and yet not so large as to run up to flower the next season; in fact, to raise onion sets, which instead of being harvested, are to be left in the ground where they will be ready to grow as soon as the spring opens. On Long Island the middle of September is found to be the best time to sow; further south it should be later, and north of that earlier. Success will largely depend upon the time of sowing, and this for any particular locality can be ascertained from experiment. The covering should not be put on until cold weather has stopped the growth of the bulbs, and may be of leaves, straw, marsh hay, or other litter. Leaves applied while it is snowing will not blow about.—*American Agriculturist.*

Superphosphate on Asparagus.

Peter Henderson says he has found superphosphate of lime very useful as an application to asparagus beds, at the rate of 500 pounds per acre (which would be a little over three pounds to the square rod), sown on the beds and hoed in. When tried on alternate rows the crop was nearly double when cut the following spring. This experiment is easily performed by those who have superphosphate on hand, but the same degree of success is not to be expected on all soils. We have known other crops to be equally benefited by the application of this fertilizer in one place, while the effect was imperceptible in another neighborhood not six miles distant, with no visible difference in the character of the soil.—*Country Gentleman.*

Horticulture.

A. PONTEY EDITOR.

Gardening Operations for October.

The busy season for all interested in gardening pursuits has again come round. Unlike its counterpart in the spring, when the season's prospects are all in the future, we can now look back over the spring and summer's work, and see wherein we might have done differently to what we have; and doubtless, to an inquiring mind, many little incidents connected with the garden's work have transpired which have suggested a new line of action for another year. It would be well while anything of this sort is fresh in the memory to dot it down in a memorandum-book, which might also contain useful hints on many other subjects, to be opened and looked over whenever the time for putting any of them into practice comes along.

Usually in this month there is a large lot of planting done, especially among fruit trees, and it would be well for farmers to consider, before committing their trees to the ground in the fall, whether the piece of land upon which they intend to plant them is of such a nature and in such a condition of cultivation as to warrant their being put in or laid away carefully in a trench to await the coming of spring before setting out.

Controversies are continually seen in horticultural works upon the merits of spring and fall planting, and the opinion seems to hold that upon lands naturally dry trees can be planted in the fall equally as successfully as in spring. But upon low lands, where the condition of the soil is such as to retain water near the surface, it is conceded on all sides that it is best not to plant except in the spring.

We are of opinion that fall planting should be confined to the south and westerly portions of Ontario, and that for the north and more easterly portions of the Province, as also for the whole of Quebec, any trees received in the fall should be buried almost completely in a dry bank, and allowed to remain so for the winter.

Immediately that a tree shows by the ripening of the buds and drying up of the leaves that it is in a fit condition to dig, then is the time to plant, as the earlier they are put in when fit to be removed, the better, giving the young rootlets an opportunity to form and the tree an opportunity to prepare itself in a measure for the winter.

Especially should all fall planted trees be securely fastened to two stakes, one on each side of the tree, and driven down firmly so as not to allow of the possibility of shaking. A cone of soil thrown up about each tree to the height of 18 inches will be a safe guard against mice, and will also protect the roots in a great measure from the severe frosts.

Evergreens should not be planted later than the middle of September, and then, if the weather should be dry, it is risky.

A piece of ground in the kitchen garden, upon which potatoes or some early crop has been grown, can be well manured now, trenched deep and planted with strawberries. All they will require is a slight covering of corn stalks or long litter to prevent heaving out by the frost in spring. Sow a good large bed of prickly or winter spinach; it will furnish the house with a delicious vegetable early in the spring, while other things are growing. Cut off the tops as soon as dry from the asparagus beds, and throw the soil from the alleys up on to the bed; it will help protect the crowns of the plants during winter, but must be raked off again in spring.

In the flower garden, Dutch bulbous roots should be planted, and for manure to prepare the bed with, nothing can equal clean cow manure mixed with fine sand. Flower seeds should be watched, and as they ripen, gathered and put away properly labelled, so as to save confusion when wanted again.

A few words on gathering apples may not be out of place at this season. Apples should be picked (not shaken down) and handled as carefully as though they would break as readily as an egg; a blow which would break an egg will bruise an apple, and spoil it effectually for long keeping. Put right into barrels from off the tree, and either let the barrels stand unheaded under a dry, cool shed until the first sweet passes off the fruit, or use perforated barrels. A cold cellar—one in which water will just freeze in severe weather—is better for keeping apples than a warmer one. It is good policy, where it can be done, to leave the barrels out in an open shed until fears of their being frozen are entertained.