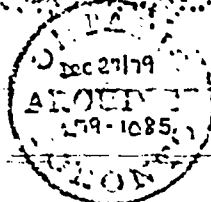


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## SUGGESTIONS FOR Lovers of Flowers.

### An Ornamental Trellis.



VERY pretty and suitable trellis may be made of a board eight feet long and one foot wide. Take a carpenter's rip-saw and saw the board lengthwise into strips one inch wide.

sawing through one-half of the length of the board, leaving the remaining half solid. Spread the strips out fan-shape. Upon one face of the board tack a narrow strip at the base, then tack strips at intervals, each strip being enough longer than the preceding one to give the trellis the desired "flare."

The strips will give strength to the trellis, and prevent it spreading too much. A pretty arch is given to the top by tacking a barrel hoop to the upper ends. Use wire nails to avoid splitting the wood. Give the trellis a coat of paint. Set it in the ground about two feet. Train the vine on both sides of the trellis. The effect will be one that affords much beauty.—*Mary B. Kerch.*

### Things to Do in April.

THE garden beds can be spaded up as soon as the frost is out of the ground. But do not attempt to put them in shape for seed. Leave the clods, just as you throw them up, exposed to the action of the elements. In a little while, if the weather is bright and warm, they will part with superfluous moisture and be ready to crumble into mellowness under the touch of hoe or rake. It never pays to work the soil when it is full of water.

Shrubs, with the exception of the lilac and others which bloom early in the season from buds of last year's formation, should be well pruned as soon as growth begins, so that you can tell the condition of the branches. Thin out thick ones, and cut away all weak wood. As far as possible remove the old growth, and leave the younger branches, as these have the greatest vitality. Shorten the branches of roses, cutting back to a strong branch bud. If any branches are partly killed by exposure, cut them back to live, healthy wood. Manure

all shrubs and plants well, especially roses. This is important, as they will need to be fed well early in the season, while getting ready for June flowering.

Many plants can be started to advantage this month in the sheltered beds, or cheap hotbeds constructed by making a frame of boards banked about well and covered with sash. Use horse manure for banking, and put five or six inches of it in the bed before filling in with the fine soil in which seeds are to be sown. As soon as the seedlings appear, begin to ventilate. Do this carefully. Lift the sash only a little at first, and do this during the middle of the day. As the plants develop and gain strength, and the weather becomes warmer, open the sash more and more. It is very important that this should be done if healthy plants are wanted.

Clean up about the yard. Aim to have everything connected with the garden in apple-pie order. Neatness is quite as essential as anything else in bringing about the desired result in gardening operations. A slovenly kept garden will never please.

Plants in the window-garden ought to receive careful attention now. Many of them will be in their flowering prime. Keep them watered well, avoid the use of artificial heat as far as possible, and give them fresh air every day in liberal quantity. Those which have completed

their flowering period can be cut back, and cuttings made of what is taken off for next winter's use, or for use in the summer garden. In case one has old plants or plants too large for the windows in which they are kept, it is well to start new ones. The old ones can be planted out in the garden, where they will give good returns in flowers during the season.

Do not put your house plants out of doors this month, as I have known some persons to. Even if a sheltered place is given them, they will not be safe from injury by frosty nights.

Do not neglect insect-infested plants because the season for their rest is near at hand.

