

### THE GRAPE VINE IN APRIL.

Grape Vines which have been laid down and protected by a covering should be uncovered as soon as settled, mild weather makes it safe to do so. Pruning should be completed, trellises and arbors repaired if necessary, and new ones built if needed. The vine border should be kept free from weeds, and enriched with suitable manure. The ripening of grapes is sometimes much retarded by the branches of deciduous trees shading them from the sun. Mildew is often caused by the want of a free circulation of air; and on this account every obstruction to perfect ventilation should be removed. It has been ascertained that grapes ripen better on high trellises than on low ones, and are also less liable to mildew when trained high. The want of thorough drainage to the soil is often a great hindrance to successful grape culture, it is certain that land cannot be too dry for this purpose. Cuttings which have been taken off in the fall and kept in the cellar or green house, should be examined and the soil moistened around them, to keep them in a growing state.

### THE ORCHARD.

The soil for a new orchard ought to be thoroughly prepared before the trees are planted. If the land has been drained and deepened in the fall, it will be ready to receive the trees early in the spring. Sandy loam soils are best suited for an orchard; for being situated on a porous sub-soil, they are naturally drained. In stiff, retentive soils, draining is indispensable. Drains in orchards are liable to be obstructed by the fibrous roots of the trees entering the joints of the tiles, and filling the bore. Some drainers seal up the joints with cement, and hold that by this means roots will be kept out of the drains, but that water will percolate through the tiles. Large tiles are better adapted for draining orchards than small ones, as they are less liable to be obstructed by roots. Six inches in depth of gravel over the tiles will be found an effective means of keeping roots out of the drains.

### THE ROYAL OAK.

The English Royal Oak thrives admirably in our climate, grows rapidly, and soon becomes a noble, ornamental and use-

ful tree. It thrives in a rather heavy, moist soil, than in one that is light and dry. It is not to be expected that it will ever be so extensively cultivated here as our native species, but a few specimens might be planted here and there about our grounds, even if for no other purpose than to refresh our memory, and bring to mind many events in English history which no one using the language should ever wish to forget. The young trees of this oak can be obtained of most of our nurserymen. — *Rural New Yorker.*

### DOUBLE-FLOWERED TIGER LILY.

The *Florist and Pomologist* for February is graced with a handsome coloured plate of new and double variety of the well known Tiger Lily. The plant has the habit of our common variety, the stalk attaining to the height of about three feet, thinly covered with a cobweb of white hairs, and clothed with scattered leaves, having the miniature bulbs in the axils. The flowers are about four inches in diameter, with six series of petals, of a bright orange colour, densely spotted with blackish purple spots. This lily was exhibited at the August meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, when it was awarded a first class certificate.

### NEW DOUBLE WISTARIA.

Mr. Francis Parkman of Jamaica Plains, Mass., received a small plant of *Wistaria* from Japan, several years since, which bloomed last summer, when it was discovered to be a new and valuable variety, with double purple flowers. The plant is perfectly hardy, resembling the old *Wistaria sinensis* so well known as one of the most beautiful of all our climbing plants. It is to be hoped that Mr. Parkman will be successful in propagating this new and charming sort, for the more varieties we have of this beautiful genus the better. — There are quite a number of distinct sorts to be found in the larger nurseries. Among the best, we will name *Wistaria sinensis*, with deep bluish flowers and very long trusses; *W. S. alba*, flowers pure white and trusses nearly a foot in length; *W. frutescens*, a native species, with small, compact clusters of purplish flowers. The plant is a vigorous grower and usually blooms twice in a season. The *W. frutescens alba*