

Orchard and Garden—No. 2.

HINTS FOR APRIL, BY H. ORTL.

Grafting.—The proper time for grafting fruit trees is as soon as the sap is in motion, which commences first with the cherry and plum, and ending with the pear and apple. The precise time, of course, varies with the season and climate, though generally the time here is from the first of April till the middle of May. Cions for grafting should be cut in the early part of winter, so as to escape the alternated freezing and thawing; placed in the cellar with sand or sawdust, or buried outside, they will be found to be in proper condition to graft. There are over fifty different methods of grafting practiced with more or less success, but we shall only draw attention to two methods, feeling certain that either of these will serve every purpose. In any form of grafting there is one essential point to be observed, and that is that the bark edges of both cion and stock meet evenly. Tongue or whip grafting is best when it can be followed, bringing the cion and stock into readier and more surface contact with each other than any other plan, especially in young trees. The cion should be from four to six inches in length, made with a slanting cut downwards at the base and split, making a tongue as in Fig. 1. Having chosen your stock of the proper size, or as near to correspond to cion, make a smooth cut upwards and a tongue also, as shown in Fig. 2, uniting cion and stock similar to Fig. 3.

Rind grafting is simply making cion as described for tongue grafting, without making the tongue; cut your stock off square, make a cut about an inch long on the side of the stock, and slipping the cion underneath the bark as illustrated in Fig. 4. Cover thoroughly all the cuts and exposed edges with grafting wax, clay, cloth, or any substance that will prevent the air from getting at it.

Pruning not done last month should be attended to. This is essential to the success of your orchard if properly done, but it would almost be better to let the trees run wild than to be butchered by incompetent parties, as is too often the case.

Lice on Trees.—These minute pests want looking after sharply, and to unpractised eyes it is a little difficult to discover the scale-like, minute parasites. Scraping, brine-washing, &c., are beneficial. We have tried kerosene on a sick looking specimen, applied with a paint brush, with good effect.

Plums.—The great success attending plum culture the past few years, and the gradual disappearance of its enemies, have induced such a demand for the trees that nurserymen's stocks are quite limited this season. The black rust can be easily kept under by the prompt use of the knife whenever it makes its appearance. Salt is a good fertilizer for the plum; to bearing trees half a peck may be applied on the surface of the ground every season.

Planting may be done as soon as the ground dries after the frost is out, till the buds push forth. We consider spring to be the best time, but in some localities, on well drained soils, fall planting succeeds admirably. Trees will not grow in wet soils.

It often happens through delay at station, or bad packing, that trees get very dry in transit. If so, on receipt of them, the best thing to do is to bury them in the soil, root and branch, for a few days, when they will, if not too far gone, come out fresh and all right.

This will be a busy month, and, as the old couplet runs—

"March winds and April showers
Bring forth May flowers."

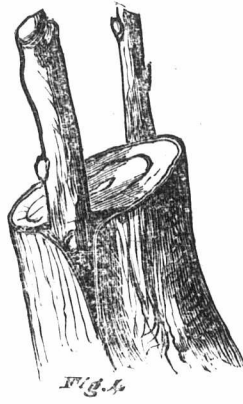
So let April labors and plans bring forth fruit and

flowers; let your skill and care assist the season in determining how much will be the return. Pay particular attention to everything. This being the year of the Centennial Exposition, great things are expected of us; let our fruits and products be equal, if not superior to any other nation's.

Hot-beds are necessary to overcome the uncertainties of our spring weather, and have things earlier for table use, the raising of plants for garden and ornamental purposes. They are well described and illustrated with hints for their simple



management in all our seedsmen's catalogues, which are sent to all who apply for them. Uncover all things mulched or otherwise protected from the winter about the middle of the month to the light and air. Roses, flowering shrubs, &c., should have the dead wood taken out and hard cut back; this will increase the luxuriance of the foliage and flowers. Lay out a nice piece of ground for ornamental purposes, if you have none yet; put a hedge around it or by the side. Make a few nice walks, plant some evergreens, a few orna-



mental trees, flower roots, &c.—something or other to redeem the barrenness of your surroundings and enhance the value of your property.

Let those now plant who have never planted before,
And those who have planted now plant the more.

What it Costs to Fatten Cattle.

Under this heading the *Farmer* (England) says: "Let us endeavor to arrive at the cost of fattening bullocks under ordinary circumstances." "The cost must vary with the diet, but if the following may be taken as representing a liberal allowance for bullocks intended to come out in March at 6 stone (of 14 lb.), we can soon arrive at the weekly cost. We shall recommend 4 lbs. of linseed cake and 6 lbs. of meal, 56 lbs. of roots, 6 lbs. of hay with chopped straw. This will probably not be given at first, but be worked

up to in the course of a fortnight or three weeks. "The meal and cake we value at 1½d per lb., or £11, 13s 4d per ton; the roots at 3d per cwt., or 5s per ton; the hay at 9d per stone, or 6s per cwt.; and the straw we shall not value at all. "We shall also charge 5 per cent. on a capita, per bullock, of say £22 as a middle price, between buying and selling, and, to make all safe, we shall charge 10 per cent. per annum on the same score for risk. Lastly, we shall charge each bullock one-fortieth part of a good man's wages—say of 16s per week."

Adding up the several items as above, he finds the cost to be 12s 1d of the fattening bullocks per week, and arrives at the conclusion that if the bullock be made to lay on 1½ stone per week, or 21 lbs. of beef at 10s per stone, there is a profit; if he put on only 1 stone he will be fed at a loss.

The prices charged differ somewhat from our prices in Canada. The price of hay is high; not so with the price of roots, but considering that they are fed and converted into manure on his own farm, the producer is well paid for them. If he raise 40 tons per acre, it will pay him for the acre £10—say \$50 per acre. None but good, well-bred stock in thrifty condition will pay a good profit, but the English farmer expects his profit from the enriching of the soil rather than from the increased weight and price of the animal fattened; when he adds to these the prices obtained for his produce, without taking it in bulk to market, he thinks he is pretty well paid.

Canadian Sugar.

Mr. Drummond, in his evidence before the Committee on Depression of Trade, referred to the failure of attempts made to introduce into the Dominion the manufacture of beet-root sugar. Some years ago he had attempted to introduce it but failed, because the farmers would not grow the beets, though he had imported the seed for the purpose. He purchased at the same time a large quantity of machinery for the manufacture of the sugar, but it was not taken out of the packing cases to this day. He had made experiments, and found there was a large per centage of saccharine matter in the roots.

This is but another instance of the reluctance manifested by the greater number of people to move out of the old familiar paths. Some years ago a contributor to this journal gave a detailed account of his experiments in the cultivation of the sugar beet, and his manufacture from it of a fair quality of sugar. The sugar was not equal to much that is imported and refined, but its quality was such as to afford convincing proof that it only required the suitable machinery to supply Canadians with sugar of a superior quality from the produce of their own fields; and had these experiments of Mr. Crofts been followed up by persons possessed of necessary capital and skill, sugar might now be enumerated among the products of our country.

The soil of Canada is adapted for the growth of beets, as of all root crops; the yield is heavy, and in other countries, as, for instance, France and Belgium, its cultivation has been found very remunerative. The sugar manufactured returns a good profit, and the refuse from which the saccharine juice has been expressed is utilized in the feeding of stock. An enterprising farmer in this neighborhood informs us that he had made an experiment on a small scale in the manufacture. He raised the beets himself, pressed them, and in an ordinary sugaring kettle converted the juice into sugar. The quantity of good, granulated sugar and its quality, were enough to convince him, if conviction were needed, that the manufacture might be carried on in this country with fair re-

muneration to the b
This might be a goo
farmers any assur
their labor they wo
markets, there mig
beets sufficient to k
and the result of th
as they did.

April

While through the m
With measured step,
Into the faithful bos
The harrow follows!

This is a month f
is short and we mu
fair hour must be
farmer who is wel
April may congratu
in time. He now e
care and feeding be
busy time. Contin
treatment good wo
man has not comp
and the seed must
All know the value
It should be rich an
it so it should be
in such a condition
ments. Heavy soil
come too compact.
the cultivator; thi
without turning up
proved by the wi
while the ground
jurious to it. Sow
will permit. The
on the time it is s
cast the seed into
perish in consequ
grow, produce we
and a poor return

See that the m
there are any, re
post or other rotte
rake and roll.
April, either on a
ing of plaster w
The ground bears
clover. The prof
for feeding stock.
soil by absorbing
with its abundant
far beneath the su
for plants; when
in the soil, becom
wrought out by th
of the superfluo
mained, be injuri

Look to your fe
down—that non
passers. Good f
breachy animal b
do injury much g
the fences. The
meadows or new
lands that are po
tender, shooting
and the root affe
and tramp on the

The live stock
milk cows and o
and nutritious
them. A little l
to the milk will
It is folly to hav
Lambs need ca
pouure must be
should not be st