

THE

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NEW SERIES.

## The Field.

### Making Hedges No. 2.

**DECIDUOUS HEDGE PLANTS.** Those plants that are of a thorny nature are usually best adapted for making a hedge, though good hedges can be made from some varieties of shrubby trees that produce no thorns. One of the most popular hedge plants of America, and one that is every way adapted to the purpose, where it can be successfully grown, is the **OSAGE ORANGE**. It is a rapid grower, makes a strong thorny fence, and is easily propagated from seed. It does not, however, prove sufficiently hardy to withstand the severe cold of our Canadian winters, until the plants have become quite large and strong. In an experiment we tried with it some years ago, the plants were found very variable in their hardiness. Some of them were killed out entirely the first winter, some only partially so, while others were scarcely affected by the frost, and continued in after years to grow vigorously; but the seeming impossibility of filling up the gaps, after several trials, caused the attempts to make a hedge of Osage orange to be abandoned. Three inches apart is the distance they find best to set the plants of Osage orange in the western United States, where many hundred miles of hedges are made of it.

**WHITE WILLOW** suckers so badly it is quite worthless for hedging.

**BUCKTHORN** makes a capital hedge, and proves quite hardy here, but is of slow growth and difficult propagation, and has one serious drawback we have observed in those that have come under our notice, *viz.*, it suffers greatly from summer drought when it has got well established, often to the extent of the destruction of

so many plants as to leave large gaps in the hedge. It may be, however, that this can be prevented by mulching the ground on both sides of the hedge during summer time, with a layer of straw. Plants are set six to eight inches apart. They can be bought at most nurseries for \$6 per 1,000.

**HONEY LOCUST** makes a thick, strong, rapid-growing hedge, perfectly impervious to any kind of stock. The plants can only be raised from seed. It is somewhat liable to winter kill when young, but not nearly so much so as the Osage orange. Plants may be set out nine to twelve inches apart, and it is absolutely necessary to keep it well cut back after the hedge is established, or it will get too strong and unmanageable.

**BEECH.**—Some varieties that are inclined to be shrubby, especially the purple beech, would make an excellent hedge, perfectly hardy, and capable, when once established, of turning any kind of stock. Such a hedge would, however, require to be protected from sheep and cattle, in its early stages, as they are extremely fond of browsing on the young shoots of beech in the winter and spring. Plants set eight inches apart. Can be easily grown from seed, or young plants a few inches high, grown in the woods, may be transplanted to a seed bed, and a year afterwards set out in a hedge.

**WILD PLUM.**—Some of the prickly varieties of our wild plum ought to yield a good material out of which to make hedges, and plants could doubtless be easily obtained from seed. The wild crab would probably also make a good hedging plant under proper management, though as yet we do not think it has been tried.

For merely ornamental hedges to the garden or lawn, or inside the fence in cities and towns, there is nothing equal to

**PRIVET**, which is a quick-growing shrub, easily obtained at a cheap rate in most nurseries, and quite hardy and reliable. Set the plants four to six inches apart. **BARBERRY** also makes an excellent hedge for gardens, and is both useful and ornamental; the berries can be made into tarts and preserves by those that like their flavour.

For a low hedge bordering a garden walk there is nothing more beautiful than the **JAPAN QUINCE** (*Pyrus Japonica*), with its loads of bright scarlet blossoms in spring and early summer. Set the plants eighteen inches apart, and trim the sides in, so as to incline them to throw out branches towards the top and centre till the hedge is about three feet high, at which elevation it is to be kept by regular pruning.

### Working the Soil.

One of the great needs of the farmer is a knowledge and understanding of the benefit to be derived from the thorough good culture of his soil. It is the understanding of the necessity of this, and thoroughly carrying it out, that so greatly helps the tenant farmer of Britain to raise such uniform and heavy crops that he can afford to pay a rent for the land that seems to us out of all proportion to its intrinsic value. But to insure success in cultivating land well, it must first be rendered tolerably dry, and free from any liability to accumulate and retain water, at any and all seasons of the year; which can only be done either by tile draining, or in cases where the soil is already naturally underdrained by having a gravelly subsoil, a good surface drainage should be provided that will carry off all rain that falls in autumn and early spring, so that the land may be worked as early and as expeditiously as possible. It is one of the