

REMEDY FOR STRIPED BUG.

Having occasion to use Paris Green and calced plaster, in the proportion of one pound of the former to fifteen of the latter, as a destroyer of the potato bug, I tried the stuff on squash, melon and cucumber vines; with me, the mixture dusted on from a common dredging box, has proved equally effective against the Colorado potato beetle and the striped bug. On squashes of the tenderest variety of foliage, like the Hubbard, for instance, and on the hardier, like Cymalin and the winter Crookneck, this mixture, whether put on when the plant is wet or dry, does not injure them; and so of musk melons and cucumbers. The water melon, however, does not like to be so treated, but I would recommend that the mixture be used with care.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

PROTECTION OF CABBAGE AGAINST WORMS.

To procure an efficient remedy against the ravages of the Cabbage Worm is a desideratum long needed by our vegetable gardeners and farmers. Mr. Thos. S. Trigg, of Montgomery Co., a gentleman of nice observations, assures us that stale suds applied to the heads of cabbage will drive away and keep away all worms. There is something about the soap suds especially obnoxious to the worm, and a few applications of it will protect the cabbage from their ravages.

There is another advantage in the use of soap suds—it fertilizes the land and induces a more vigorous growth of the plant. We hope every farmer who reads this will give it a trial and report on its efficiency.—*Nashville Union.*

THE HONEYSUCKLE AS A STANDARD.

A writer in the *Village Gardener* thinks that the honeysuckle is one of the most regularly flowered climbers in cultivation, taking rank for effect and surpassing in many points—colour for instance—even the gorgeous colored Clematises, which are in every modern garden. As a standard, the honeysuckle merits the very foremost place in our villa gardens. "We have seen it with thousands of flower umbels in pale yellow and pale pink, decorating villa grounds in a way that no single plant in the month of July can do."

It is scarcely possible, in words, to portray its extreme beauty and effectiveness. Buy a plant of it (cost not 50 cents) train or tie it to a stout stake, as one would do a standard rose; prune it not too severely, but in the way a hybrid china rose ought to be done; give it a good soil to grow in, and it needs no further attention. It will grow into a plant that will astonish, by its flowering capacity, thousands and tens of thousands who have not seen it so trained.

ASHES IN THE ORCHARD.

I have had a number of letters inquiring as to how I use ashes about fruit trees to prevent the borer from entering the trees.—These inquiries come mostly from farmers who ask me to reply through the *Homestead*, which I cheerfully do.

I have never used unleached ashes, and do not know whether or not these would injure the trees, but any one can afford to try it on at least one tree, and if it costs the life of any one tree to trust and establish a fact, all right, that tree will then have done its duty and filled its mission.

I use leached ashes altogether, as we cannot spare the unleached. About a gallon to a tree is sufficient; thus a bushel would be enough for eight trees unless the trees are so large that this will not encircle it two inches in depth. I make this application not more than once in two years. For seventeen years this has proved a perfect success with me, and I hope farmers will try this, but they should also see that their trees are free from borers before hand, as it is not claimed these ashes will kill the borers already in the tree, but only prevents them from entering, probably because these ashes are deleterious to the hatching of the eggs that may be deposited at surface and about the bark of the tree close to the ground. These ashes impregnate the bark of the tree for several inches up the stem, and this is doubtless distasteful to this troublesome creature.

These ashes may be put on in the spring, and should not be disturbed by cultivating, because if they were pulled away from being in contact with the tree, their efficacy would undoubtedly be lost.—*D. W. K. in Iowa Homestead.*

CURRENANTS.

The *Rural New Yorker* remarks, with a good deal of truth, that "it's a pity the currant is so tenacious of life—otherwise it would be more highly valued, and the plants receive better care."

From observations we have repeatedly made, bushes which are kept evenly pruned and well cultivated, bear berries from five to ten times as large (in weight) as those which commonly grow on old neglected bushes, enveloped in grass, along garden fences.

POPULAR FRUITS.

A Kentucky correspondent of the *Horticulturist*, in giving select lists of small fruits, names the "immortal Wilson" as the first among strawberries, "simply because you cannot do without it." After this he places Green Prolific, then Downer's Prolific, and lastly Kentucky. Of raspberries, he would begin with Mammoth Cluster, which should occupy at least half the plantations; Doodittle, Davison's Thornless, Purple Cane, and, where it will succeed, Hudson River Antwerp. But if only two kinds could be had, he would take Mammoth Cluster and Philadelphia. Cultivators would vary these lists in different soils and localities, but all of them have a wide approval, although some occasionally fail.

SAVING GIRDLED FRUIT TREES.

A writer in the *Pomologist* gives the following remedy for saving trees girdled by mice or rabbits:—

I made a composition of grafting wax, beeswax and tallow, in equal proportions; then procured old cloth, such as calico or muslin, and made it into strips an inch wide, wound it into balls, just as nurserymen do for grafting, and boiled it in the composition until well saturated; I then wound it round the wounded trees, and although 400 or 500 were injured, and many gnawed all round and quite through the bark, I believe only one was lost. All have made good growth. I may add that, having used all the wax I could get, I used the resin and tallow alone for some, and I have discovered no difference except in the cheapness of the latter. In doing the winding the hands should be greased to prevent sticking.

TOMATO CULTURE.

For tomatoes the ground should not be made too rich. If so, the growth of vines will be large and the tomatoes ripen later than when planted on soil of average richness. It is important, however, to mellow the ground thoroughly before setting out the plants either for early or late crop. If it is found necessary to manure, spread some well rotted stable-yard manure broadcast and turn it under. This in practice will be found a better plan than applying yard manure in the hill at the time of planting.

To stimulate the plants early in the season and hasten the ripening of the crop, market gardeners very often apply a small quantity of Peruvian guano (mixed with soil) in the hill before transplanting. This does undoubtedly bring forward the plants and makes a difference in the date of ripening of the crop. In the garden tomato vines may be made ornamental by supporting the vines on a frame, or it is a good plan when the tomatoes are full grown to cover the ground slightly with salt hay or straw as a mulch to keep the tomatoes clean.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

TREE SEEDS.

Farmers in the wooded districts can supply themselves with native seeds at a small cost of labor and time. Even where there are but fringes of trees along the streams large quantities of seeds can in some seasons be gathered. Where seeds can be thus had in the neighborhood, it is cheaper and better to gather them than to buy from a distance, as they will be fresh, and can at once be planted or placed in safety for keeping. The gathering of tree seeds has not yet become general in Kansas; but it is a work in which even children can aid, and ought not to be neglected. All our native trees are of value, particularly the ash, box elder, elm, honey locust, hickory, maples, oaks, and walnuts. No money ought to be sent out of the State for these seeds, until at least all from the native trees are consumed each year. Tree seeds are not yet an article of commerce in the State, because there has not yet arisen a general demand for them; but the time will come when dealers, as in other States, will collect them for sale. It is only within two or three years that any one in Illinois has had tree seeds for sale, but now there are several dealers; and we may reasonably hope for the same trade to begin in Kansas at an early day.

One farmer in Netawaka, Kan., proposes to sow sixty acres to flax.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTING.

Tree planting for ornament, or shade, whenever done, should have each tree, its probable future size, its general habits, etc., carefully studied. Too many plant without thought of future growth, and often the Norway Spruce or other variety of tree, that in twenty years reach a height of forty or more feet, with a spread of branches equal to its height, is planted within four feet of a footpath or a roadway; or perhaps half a dozen of them planted in a dooryard or front ground of not over thirty to forty feet square.

A few years can only elapse ere the tree or trees have to be removed or severely cut back. In the former case the thick planting has in nine cases out of ten caused all the lower limbs of the tree to die out, and the removal of one, two or more, leaves the remainder with scrawny, unsightly, verdureless lower limbs.

Every tree planter should look up authors' descriptions of the habits, ultimate growth, etc., before planting, and then so arrange them that no future labor will be required. If a single tree is to be planted for its beauty alone, or for the purpose of a shade, then it should have room for all its branches to extend either way. But if a group of three, five or seven trees is desired, the whole, when grown to form a whole head, may then be placed near each other, as only the outer limbs are expected to grow and form, as it may be, one outline; but with varied colored foliage and spray, making, as we might say, an aboriginal bouquet.—*Goderich Star.*

CULTIVATING GRAPES ON THE GROUND.

A method of cultivating the grape as pursued in Cabul, Central Asia, might be tried here, at least. Cabul and the country just northward of it has a climate, as it appears, not a little like our own here in Minnesota, being a high plateau where, whilst the thermometer sometimes marks twenty degrees below zero, grapes and other fruits grow in perfection, although requiring a great deal of care. As the snow does not usually disappear until the first of April or thereabouts, it appears needless to push the vines all that is possible, the frost once out of the way for the season. Accordingly this is the method:—

"Trenches are dug about one foot in depth, the earth being thrown up in the form of a terrace one foot high and six or eight feet broad. The vine being set in these trenches about three feet apart, is allowed to run over the terrace to the next trench, at the edge of which it is cut off, and the lateral branches are allowed to spread, being trimmed into three or four buds. In this way the vine and the fruit rest upon the ground. The effect of this plan will be to force the fruit by the heat or refraction from the soil."

Now as heat in this latitude, and with our summers (apt to be too short at both ends for grapes) appears to be the great desideratum, why should not some of our grape growers try the process above described, even if on a small scale? We know how much to do with early production the strawberry has raised flat on the ground. Why not apply the same method with the grape, putting some light brush or limbs along the terrace described, to lift the vines a little above the soil, in order to have a little more neatness?

And could this method be successful there is advantage to be considered. In laying down the vines for the winter the slant already given to them would prevent their suffering that twisting, that wrenching and violence certainly not beneficial to them when restored to light and growth in the spring. The experiment appears worth trying.—*Farmers' Union.*

MANURING ORCHARDS.

One often sees an orchard with large heaps of manure close around the body of the trees instead of being spread evenly over the whole ground. This has been aptly compared to placing feed in the manger and then hitching the horse with the tail to it in other words, placing the food where there is no mouth to eat it.

The roots, or feeders that collect the tree's food from the ground are not at the trunk, but are out in a circle as far as the ends of the limbs. The small roots or feeders may be compared to an army of small worms moving outward from the trunk and penetrating every inch of soil from the lowest roots of the surface, and extracting every particle of tree food from the ground as they go. As long as these feeders can extend outward a few inches into rich soil every year, the tree flourishes, but when the supply of tree food becomes exhausted in any direction the feeders upon that side of the tree become famished, and the roots dependent upon them immediately begin to decay.

We often see one thrifty on one side and the trunk and limbs dead on the other. The rea-

son is plain that the feeders on the decayed side have met some obstacle to their further progress in that direction, or that the tree food has been exhausted within their reach. In either case the result would be the same, the roots and feeders would be neglected and left to decay, while the whole energy of the tree would be thrown into the other side, where food was yet abundant. All the danger in applying manure to an orchard lies in overlooking this peculiar principle in the economy of vegetable life. If the manure is placed outside of the circle of feeders they soon reach it, and all is well, but if it is placed inside and near the trunk, a fatal revolution in the economy of the roots begins. Instead of drawing support from the feeders and roots outside of the manure, they are neglected and left to decay, while the whole energy of the tree is exerted to throw out a new set of feeders around the trunk to live on the manure. And while the outside roots that held the tree so firmly in the ground are rotting, the manure gives to the tree, through the new set of feeders, a vigorous growth and fruitage for two, and perhaps for three years, and the farmer is satisfied that manuring around the trunk of his trees has been a success. But disappointment is sure to follow, for the large roots have rotted off near the trunk, and the trees are blown down one after another, taking with them only the small tuft of live roots around the trunk that supported the tree from the manure till the roots could hold it no longer.—*American Farm Journal.*

FRUIT PROSPECTS IN ILLINOIS.

Among the peculiarities of the year in Illinois are, since the summer heats have come on, the extraordinary vigor with which plant growth pushes forward. Though the middle of May may have been two or three weeks behind the average of seasons, by the middle of June the time lost will have been caught up. Then, too, the elements of plant food seem to abound in an unusual quantity near to the earth's surface, and a vigorous crop of weeds push in a few days.

Of the early fruits there will be no full crop, except those of currants and gooseberries. The weather has been very favorable to these, and also to strawberries, but the acreage of the latter is very limited. Notwithstanding the scarcity of money, and the almost universal feeling of poverty everywhere, except among the wealthiest classes, the crop of strawberries will be so short that great prices may be had for them. I calculate as a consequence to this state of the market, more strawberries will be planted within a year than for the previous three years together. The destruction among nursery stock and young fruit trees by the severities of last winter is something fearful, and I anticipate a rise in stock of that kind, and of all descriptions, from 20 to 40 per cent. I think for the next year, perhaps for the next two or three years, from two to three times the quantity will be called for over and above the quantity disposed of during the last three years.

Of peach and pear stock there will be no adequate quantity to supply the demand, and I suppose that half the apple stock in Illinois has been more or less injured. Peaches and pears are dead beyond all previous anticipation. Apple trees believed to have been hardly any dying, and I suppose it would not be too high an estimate to say that twenty per cent. of all fruit growth had been destroyed.—*B. F. J. in Country Gent.*

PRUNING AT MIDSUMMER.

It is many years since from our own experience we recommended people to prune at midsummer, although we knew it was opposed to the views of many eminent horticulturists. At that time it was regarded as a bold innovation on established rules; and we have often since seen articles to show that summer pruning must be wrong. The reasoning by which this is supported is no doubt very good. It does seem by the reasoning we have referred to that it ought to be wrong to prune at that season; but on the other hand we have the evidence of our own senses not only that no harm but absolute good resulted from the summer pruning of trees.

But it seems to be forgotten by many good people that there are two sides to every story—two sides to winter pruning, and two sides to summer pruning. Few of these horticultural operations are unmixt good or unmixt evil. In any case what we have to accomplish is to be gained, sometimes at a little expense of good points—good if we are after some other object. So in this summer pruning question. It is said by persons whom the whole horticultural community respect, that "winter pruning strengthens while summer pruning weakens trees;" and if one were to deprive a tree of the whole of its foliage this would probably be true enough to work serious injury. It is on the principle on which noxious weeds are destroyed. Deprived of every leaf as fast as one appears, a plant is often killed in one season. But may this not be different when only a few branches are taken off? The remaining leaves and branches have more food at their disposal.