

THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA.

Farmer's Department.

Farmer's Garden Blits.

With the fruit of your Strawberry beds is swelling they should be plentifully watered in the absence of rain. It has a marked effect upon the perfectness and size of the berry.

Rub off all the sprouts upon the stocks which you have set with grafts this spring. It will help to push along the growth of the scion. Not unfrequently grafts, after they have started, die for want of sap from the parent stem to sustain them.

The trees transplanted this spring should be mulched as soon as the ground becomes dry. For this purpose grass is as good as anything. Don't put around the tree too much at a time, and repeat the mulch when it gets dry and thin. Remove it once or twice during the summer, and stir up the ground well, then replace it. It will save many a tree, if the season should be hot and dry, which we think this season will be.

Your Raspberry and Blackberry beds should also be well mulched. Any quantity of dry straw about a place, especially leaves, scrapings, etc., will do. An application of the contents of a hot bed is very beneficial.

A few radish seeds planted around your cantelope hills will ordinarily protect the vine against the striped bug. This dangerous enemy of the melon prefers the radish to the melon leaves; and thus, while feeding on the radish, the other gets the start of it and pushes out of reach of danger, as the leaf of the melon is attacked only when very young and tender.

When your flower plants get from an inch and a half to two inches high, they can be thinned out and transplanted. It should be done after a rain, or the ground from which they are taken and whither they are put should be thoroughly moistened.

Radishes always do better when planted in new ground, or at least ground where they have not heretofore been. Old gardens are the worst places in the world for radishes. You will rarely obtain any sound ones. Clay mixed with the old soil vitalizes it greatly and will produce good radishes.

Tomatoes, Egg and Cabbage plants, after being set out, generally become somewhat wilted in their leaves, and lose some of them from the effects of the sun before they become established. This can be prevented by setting over the plant, say from eight to nine or four to five o'clock in the day, boxes in the shape of cones about four inches in height, open at the top. They also protect the plants against frost. By the use of these boxes a week is gained in time, and sometimes the plants saved from severe or fatal injury. The boxes will last twelve or fifteen years.

If you find any of your evergreens to become lighter in color than is natural for them, or, rather, if you wish the deepest green attainable, give them a thorough dressing of good barn-yard manure, extending as far out as the extremity of the branches, and you will accomplish your wish.

If shrubby or fruit trees transplanted this season look sickly or backward in growing, prune them sharply. It is the only way to save them, their setting out and other things being duly attended to.

All Raspberry and Blackberry canes set out this spring should be cut down to within six inches of the ground, if not done when set out. It will insure the growth of the new wood, and they will come into bearing order next year; whereas, should the canes be allowed to remain only partially pruned, as other bearing wood, there may be a small crop of poor fruit, and only about half a crop next year. Some people are so eager to get fruit at once that they totally neglect this advice.

Those who have not set out "cuttings" of grapes, shrubbery, etc., can lay the branches down, say two inches under ground, letting the end of the branch appear. Sometimes it will require a forked stick to hold them in their places. A grapevine can be laid down its whole length, and if carefully done will throw out a sprout from each joint, making a beautiful arrangement for the trellis.—*Germania Telegraph*.

GROWING ONIONS.

The high figures at which onions have been sold the past season will probably induce a more extended cultivation of this most valuable of vegetables. The most successful onion grower, on a somewhat limited scale, we ever saw, kept his ground in high till, forming deep, rich bed for the seed. The soil was thoroughly stirred to the depth of a foot or more, and finally pulverized. When thus prepared, the party commenced tramping across the beds in the line of the extended rows, thus compacting the soil quite hard. This done, a rake was used to stir up or scatter the surface sufficiently deep to cover the onion seeds lightly or to assure its germination. In thus tramping the onion bed down, after the soil has been properly stirred and prepared, the onion was grown, during the preparation, the onion was grown, during the period of its growth, upon the surface, causing it to expand with more freedom than would have been the case if covered deep in a meadow soil. The result of this mode of planting and cultivation was the most prolific yield of the best developed onions we ever saw. This mode was pursued year after year, and with unvarying success.—*New Yorker*.

Pruning.

Cut down every worn out and worthless tree. It shades and saps the ground usually with a clump of suckers. Cut away all sprouts from the roots of your trees. An hour spent around a good tree is time well invested. We have been pained at seeing so many orchards utterly neglected in this State. Good farms in other respects are frequently disfigured by these mischievous orchards. It should not be so. There is no reason why a man who looks well after his horses, and sheep, should not also look well to his orchard.—*Maine Farmer*.

WOOD ASHES FOR STRAWBERRIES.—There is no better fertilizer for Strawberries than ashes. A contemporary says one of the best crops he ever had was raised when the only manure used was wood ashes. All soils will not alike be benefited by such an application; but it is always safe to use ashes in connection with other manures. If ashes only are used, there are fewer weeds, as no seed can be introduced by the manure.

For the Young Folks.

DONKEY-SWELL.

A MERRY young huntsman, named Peter, was once riding briskly along through a wood, one while winding his horn and another singing a merry song:

"Ho-ho-ho, takes the huntsman bold,
Ho-ho-ho, and give ridges ho!
Ho-ho-ho, who winds his horn,
Ho-ho-ho, is ho-ho-ho."

As he journeyed along, there came up a little old woman, and said to him, "Good day, good day, Mr. Huntsman bold! you seem merry enough, but I am hungry and thirsty; do pray give me something to eat!" So Peter took pity on her and put his hand in his pocket, and gave her what he had. Then he wanted to go his way; but she took hold of him, and said, "Listen Master Peter, to what I am going to tell you: I will reward your kindness. Go your way, and after a little time you will come to a tree, where you will see nine birds sitting upon a cloak. Shoot into the midst of them, and one will fall down dead. The cloak will fall too; take it as a wishing-cloak, and when you wear it, you will find yourself at any place you may wish to be. Cut open the dead bird, take out its heart and keep it, and you will find a piece of gold under your pillow every morning when you rise. It is the bird's heart that will bring you this good luck."

The huntsman thanked her, and thought to himself, "If all this do happen, it will be a fine thing for me." When he had gone a hundred steps or so, he heard a screaming and chirping in the branches over him; so he looked up, and saw a flock of birds, pulling a cloak with their bills and feet; screaming, fighting, and tugging at each other as if each wished to have it himself.

"Well," said the huntsman, "this is wonderful; this happens just as the old woman said." Then he shot into the midst of them, so that their feathers flew all about. Off went the flock chattering away; but one fell down dead, and the cloak with it. Then Peter did as the old woman told him, cut open the bird, took out the heart, and carried the cloak home with him.

The next morning, when he awoke, he lifted up his pillow, and there lay the piece of gold glittering underneath; the same happened next day, and, indeed, every day when he arose. He helped up a great deal of gold, and at last thought to himself, "Of what use is this gold to me whilst I am at home? I will go out into the world, and look about me."

Then he took leave of his friends, and hung his horn and bow about his neck, and went his way merrily as before, singing his song:

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