

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

A BEGINNER IN FRUIT-GROWING.

More than one-half the failures in getting a "stand" of any kind of fruit are the result of careless digging and neglect while the roots are out of their native element.

Where trees are to be procured by wagon from local nursery, the wagon should be furnished with a top box or side-board, making a bed two feet deep and filled with short, wet straw or hay.

Packed in this way, moisture, darkness and uniformity of temperature are all maintained to a degree closely resembling their previous abiding place, and can thus be carried, or stand in a barn, for several days with less injury than would result from a team drive exposed to wind, sun and frost.

From whatever source trees are received, they should be unpacked at the earliest opportunity, the bunches separated, and each tree set in mellow soil to await final planting in the orchard.

Timothy or herd grass is the most common grass of continental Europe, growing wild throughout all that vast region between the Mediterranean sea on the south and the North sea in the direction the name implies.

Where plants are home-grown, and one can follow the best method, the first to be dug should be Gooseberries and Currants; then Blackberries, Strawberries and Raspberries, in the order mentioned.

SAVE THE LEAVES.—We not frequently see piles of leaves raked up and burned because they disfigure the grounds.

When moisture is plentiful and the rains come at the proper times it must not be overlooked that the weeds are benefited by the favorable conditions as well as the crops.

THE PEACH TREES have been attacked severely by aphids this season. In Delaware and Maryland a spraying of strong soap, made from common rosin soap, is considered the best remedy.

By planting small trees they can be better started and will be less liable to the effects of drought, compared with older trees.

One hundred fowls will produce manure enough when carefully saved, to top dress one acre of grass or fertilizer two acres of corn.

layer's trowel. Raspberries and Blackberries are planted at every other mark, and the difference in color prevents confusion.—Vick's Monthly for May.

THE WATER HYACINTH.

This is one of the most curious as well as beautiful of plants. All hyacinth bulbs will grow in water if properly supported so that only the lower part of the bulb comes in contact with the water; but this species of hyacinth floats upon the surface of the water, being supported by its curiously inflated leaf stalks, which resemble bladders or balloons filled with air.

It forms a lovely rosette of its shining green leaves; a mass of beautiful, feathery blue roots grow downward into the water; and upward ascend spikes of the most exquisite flowers imaginable, resembling in form the ordinary spike of hyacinth bloom, but as odd and beautiful as the choicest orchid.

The spike consists of from five to seven flowers, each as large as a silver dollar, or larger, and of a soft rosy lilac color, sparkling as if covered with diamond dust.

The upper petal, which is the largest, has a large, metallic blue blotch in the center, and in the center of that a small spot of deep gold.

FARM NOTES.

POULTRY AND EGGS.—Here are some figures on the number and value of small products which may well astonish people not given to thinking about or ciphering up aggregates.

It is chronicled that New York city consumes over 20,000 car loads of live and dressed poultry and 25,000,000 dozen eggs annually. As 5,000,000 people buy in New York city and the population of the United States is over 50,000,000, we can form some idea of the consumption of poultry and eggs, which would be almost 200,000 car loads of poultry and 250,000,000 dozens eggs.

As both sides of the portiere were in use the reverse side was lined with unpainted burlap and trimmed with bands of olive cloth upon which was sketched a bold design of trailing vines and flowers.

HOW WINE IS MADE.—In Eastern countries where the manufacture of wine is still carried on in the days of Noah, the crushed grapes are merely poured into jars and allowed to ferment, the crushed fruit, or muck, being violently agitated three times a day by means of the hand of a wooden plunger.

YEAST BUNS.—One and one-half cups of warm milk, one cup of sugar, one cup of yeast, thickened to a batter, let it rise over night, or until it is light, then add one cup of sugar, one egg, one-half cup of melted butter, a little salt and nutmeg, two cups of chopped raisins or currants as you prefer, add flour as for bread, put in a baking tin in small cakes, let them rise again, then bake.

FRUIT CAKE.—Two cupsful of butter, four cupsful of sugar, mix well; add two cups of milk, mix thoroughly; add beaten yolks of eight eggs, mix well; add eight cupsful of flour; beat to a stiff froth the whites of the eggs, and add to batter with another cup of flour, in which two good teaspoonfuls of baking powder is mixed.

WHIPPED PRUNES.—Wash and soak two cupsful of prunes; boil them in plenty of water until very soft; mash them through a colander, return them to saucepan, add one-half cup sugar; cook again until it is melted; pour into a dish to cool; when nearly ready to use beat with a fork the whites of two eggs very stiff; whip lightly but thoroughly into the prunes and serve.

BREAKFAST BISCUIT.—Take one quart of sweet milk, one-half a cupful of melted butter, a little salt, two tablespoonfuls of baking powder, flour enough to make a stiff batter, do not knead into dough; drop into buttered tins from a spoon, bake in a hot oven; the oven must be very hot or they will not be light and tender.

THE easiest way to clean the much-despised mush-pot is to pour a little boiling water into it, cover tightly and set on the back of the stove. By the time the dishes are washed the steam will have loosened all the scrapings and the kettle may be easily washed.

HEAVY draperies should not be hung on a line and whipped out; they should be carefully brushed on both sides, and then cleaned with a damp flannel cloth wrung out of lukewarm water to which spirits of turpentine in the proportion of a tablespoonful to a gallon have been added.

HOUSEHOLD.

ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.—Burlap has held a certain place among materials for house decoration for several years, but never has it been so successfully used as for hangings. The coarse threads and soft color offer a good foundation for effective embroidery if desired; heavy wools and silks are used for these designs, but although material and wool are coarse, much time and patience are required to complete a pair of hangings.

Decorator and Furnisher describes a most effective portiere of burlap, both inexpensive and quickly made. The material should be cut three feet longer than the doorway; then it must be spread on the floor and firmly tacked at the corners and occasionally along the edges. It is then painted with large brushes and burnt sienna, house paint, which comes in cans, costing from twenty-five to thirty cents a can.

Nine inches were fringed out top and bottom; to make the fringe heavier and hang better, strands of coarse cotton rope, such as sailors use, were tied in at regular intervals. Each one of these strands was ornamented with cash, which is a Chinese brass coin answering to the American cent, and which may be bought at any of the Chinese stores for \$1 a hundred. The cash has a hole in the center through which the cord was thrust, and a large knot tied to hold it securely; the fringe at both top and bottom was finished in the same way.

A broad band of brown plush was placed above the fringe across the top and bottom. A row of fancy braided straw disks—otherwise Chinese table mats—was fastened through the middle of the band; from the centre of each one of these disks hung a long heavy tassell made of the coarse rope, fringed out, or rather untwisted, and securely fastened on the wrong side.

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FROSTED STRAWBERRIES.—Select large, ripe berries, leave on the stems, dip one at a time in cold water and lay on a sieve to dry. Beat the whites of two or three eggs, dip the berries one at a time into the egg, then in powdered sugar, then in the egg and sugar again, putting them, so they will not touch, on plates to dry.

An Only Daughter Cured of Consumption. When death was hourly expected from Consumption, all remedies having failed and Dr. H. James was experimenting, he accidentally discovered a preparation of Indian Hemp, which cured his only child, and now gives this recipe free on receipt of two stamps to pay expenses. Hemp also cures night sweats, nausea at the stomach, and will break a fresh cold in twenty-four hours. Address: Craik & Co., 212 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa., naming this paper.

No one ought to be satisfied with the Imperfect.

The Pill of Our Fathers. No new fangled mixture of poisonous minerals, but the good old fashioned pure vegetable blood purifier and liver tonic of centuries ago, when the only cure was medicines to assist nature to throw off diseases by removing congestions of the liver, kidneys, bowels, and stomach, which exceeds all diseases. The old monks of the middle ages were followers of Hypocrites and their St. Bernard Vegetable Pills have never been surpassed in this world. A sample of the St. Bernard Vegetable Pills will be sent free to all applicants. Address: St. Bernard, Box 245, Philadelphia, Pa.

Great Britain has 11 universities, 334 professors, and 13,400 students.

If you have catarrh, you are in danger, as the disease is liable to become chronic and affect your general health, or develop into consumption. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures catarrh by purifying and enriching the blood, and building up the system. Give it a trial.

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In four foot rows it will take about 3,000 asparagus plants to the acre.

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BUNCH GRASS.—"The bunch grass which grows so luxuriantly upon the Western plains is a curious plant," said a ranchman recently. "It grows everywhere throughout the west wherever there is the slightest rainfall, and in the greatest luxuriance along the river bottoms. It's a godsend to the grazing industry, and although a homely plant, possesses more of the fattening qualities than the far famed blue grass of old Kentuck. Indeed, much of the fast horseflesh of the mountain districts owes its staying powers to a diet upon this succulent grass. Spokane, for example, took its full allowance of bunch grass in his coltish days. Bunch grass grows in thick hummocks, or bunches, as the name would indicate.

Half a hundred sharp pointed spears often arise from a single hump, and often to a height of eighteen inches. In the spring it is a delicate green, but later on dries up, but cures to perfection upon the root. During the winter cut the dig with their noses for this grass concealed beneath the snow. However, if the snow is covered with a crust, steers are thus cut off from their usual food and die off in large numbers, as it is a peculiarity of a steer that it never uses its hoofs in removing the snow from the familiar pasturage. Horses, however, break the crust with their hoofs, and thus stand the hard western winters better than cattle. The buffalo always makes use of the hoofs in uncovering the food, and somewhere down in Kansas there is a stock farm where this faculty of using the hoofs is being developed by judicious crossing of buffaloes with the native cattle.

If you want hens and pullets to quit laying, turn them out early in the morning on the frozen grass. It is an infallible remedy.

When scissors bind draw the inner blades over your hair or the palm of your hand. It is better than oil and will not stain afterwards.

CORAL can be washed in salt and water after dusting by blowing off all the particles of dirt possible, and then bleached very white in the sun.

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