

## MARCH.

At last  
The clouds consign their treasures to the fields;  
And, softly shaking on the dimpled pool  
Prelusive drops, let all their moisture flow  
In large effusion o'er the freshened world.—THOMSON.

*Vegetation—Celery—Winter Greens—Radish—Lettuce—Cress—Mustard—Endive—Turnips—Prepare Land for Autumn-sown Onions—Broad Beans—Cabbage, Cauliflower, &c.—Spinach—Budding—Strawberry Planting—Bulbous and Tuberous Flower Roots—Vineries—Lawns and Shrubberies.*

AUTUMNAL showers, at short intervals, throughout the greater portion of the present month, may always be predicted with complete certainty. The effect upon vegetation, in the heated state of the soil, thus slightly cooled and moistened by these frequent showers, is almost instantaneous, rapidly exciting a second spring-like growth, and even a second profusion of blossoms upon many sorts of flowering plants which had already bloomed at an earlier period of the year.

These rains indicate the arrival of a suitable time for the renewal of our exertions in active planting and sowing; which should first be devoted to the planting of late crops of celery, as well as second crops of all the sorts of winter greens previously named.

Seeds may now be sown of radish, lettuce, cress, mustard, and endive; and this is especially the season for making a large sowing of early white stone turnips, which will yet give a moderate crop of remarkably sweet and tender turnips throughout the whole of the winter and early spring. The most suitable ground for all these crops will be that from which early potatoes have been dug.

Now is the best period of the year for preparing the land for a large breadth of autumn-sown onions; for this indispensable and valuable vegetable, sown *early* in the present month, becomes sufficiently established to withstand the winter, and during the following summer to produce much larger and finer bulbs than those sown in spring; indeed, so well is this known in the northern settlements, that onions are very generally sown at this season, and the crop is well-known to be often an astonishingly profitable one. It is, however, here requisite to introduce a caution against extending the autumn sowing of onions, as is sometimes unwisely done, to the end of April and May; for if sown so late, they have not had time to root sufficiently deep to secure themselves, when the first thaw that succeeds a sharp frost is sure to throw them upon the surface. It ought, therefore, to be distinctly understood, that if onions are not sown in March, or by the first week in April, they are best deferred until early spring.

Broad beans sown at this season will withstand the winter, and produce an abundant crop in November. All the varieties of cabbages, curled greens, savoys, Brussels sprouts, and cauliflowers may now be sown for transplanting in spring; another sowing of spinach may be made.

Transplant lettuce and endive for winter use; mould up celery; tomatoes and capsicums may be gathered; ripe onions may also be gathered, dried, and stored; and some of the latter sorts of annual pot-herbs will still require to be collected and dried.

Continue the budding of fruit trees, and regulate once more the shoots of vines, apricots, peaches, and other choice fruit-bearing plants; make new plantations of strawberries from well-rooted and established runners, giving an especial preference to the variety known by the name of Kean's seedlings.

Bulbous and tuberous flower roots, lifted about the end of summer, may now be re-planted; polyanthus, auriculas, primroses, and cowslips, now starting forth into new growth from the altered character of the weather, may be lifted and increased by division of their roots; these and other herbaceous plants which have finished blooming will, during the showery weather of this and the succeeding months, readily bear this easy mode of augmenting their numbers.

English hollies and several other evergreens, having completed their summer's growth, and being now about to push forth an autumnal one, can be transplanted with certain success at this season, especially if showery or cloudy days are selected for the operation. The same period and mode of procedure will be found alike applicable to young blue gums, and other Tasmanian trees and evergreen shrubs.

Greenhouse plants, from the greater humidity of the atmosphere, will now require less frequent watering, especially those which have done blooming, many of which may now be headed back; and the cuttings thereby afforded, if placed in a gentle bottom heat, will root rapidly, and speedily increase the stock of flowering plants for another season.

Maintain in vineries a perfectly dry atmosphere, and give an abundance of air every fine day. Grapes should now be highly coloured and perfectly ripe, and can readily be preserved, plump and fine, for a period of five months, in a dry temperature, with a free circulation of air.

Evergreens of various kinds can now be planted out upon grass lawns; the showery character of the weather and softened sunshine will be found highly conducive to success, and the growing period of autumn is yet sufficiently long to allow of the plants thoroughly establishing themselves before winter. They will thus be ready in spring to start forth into rapid growth, considerably surpassing those the planting of which has been delayed to the more dormant season of mid-winter.

## APRIL.

A serener blue,  
With golden light enliven'd, wide invests  
The happy world. Attemper'd suns arise  
Sweet-beamed, and shedding oft through lucid clouds  
A pleasing calm.—THOMSON.

*The Weather—Final Sowings of Cabbage, Cauliflower, &c.—Transplanting—Lettuce—Endive—Celery—Thinning out Broccoli—Lift Potatoes—Strawberries—Commence Pruning Currants and Raspberries—Bulbous Flower Roots—Greenhouse Climbers—Verbena and Geranium Cuttings—The Lawn.*

APRIL, the third month of autumn, is usually one of the most settled of the year. The days generally are distinguished by beautiful bright sunshine, by an almost entire absence of wind, and by a soft balmy state of the atmosphere; although the temperature begins sensibly to decline, and the nights to lengthen considerably, whilst heavy dews and diminished transpiration and evaporation begin to render artificial watering in the open air unnecessary.

Cooler weather and less active growth have now restricted the varieties of vegetable seeds necessary to be sown this month to final sowing of cabbages, cauliflowers, savoys, and curled greens, to stand the winter in the seed-beds, and afford supplies of each for planting out in spring, to cress and mustard for late salading, and to a good sowing of spinach for spring gathering.

Relief, however, from the duties of sowing only substitutes the obligation of renewed exertion in the not less pressing duties of transplanting; for most of the plants sown about the end of February and first week in March will now require to be planted out so as to afford supplies of vegetables for early spring use. Continue to transplant lettuce and endive for winter salading, and tie up the more advanced crops of each for blanching; earth up growing celery, and take precautionary measures for the protection of the late heads of cauliflowers by bending their own leaves over them, for they are very susceptible of injury from frost.

Hoe between and earth up advancing crops of flowering broccoli; and if these, from their over vigorous growth, have become too crowded, the plants of every second row, and each alternate plant in the remaining row, may, with advantage, be thinned out and planted to the neck in potato or other ground from which the crops have been removed; for it often happens on a rich, new ground that, unless broccoli receive a check in autumn from a second transplanting, or by being laid over on their side, they are liable, from excessive exuberance of growth, to pass their proper season of flowering, and stand over to the second year. Commence to lift, dry, and store early seed potatoes; and dig, manure, and trench all vacant pieces of ground, so that they may throughout the winter derive all the following advantages of frost, sun and air.

Where omitted last month, it will still be a good time to plant out lines or beds of strawberries from the best rooted young runners of the current season's growth. Twelve inches from plant to plant in the row, and not less than twenty-four inches between the rows, are fair distances. Much, however, depends upon selecting a fruitful sort, for some of the kinds in cultivation are very unproductive. Unquestionably the best variety is the Kean's seedling, which has fully proved itself an abundant bearer, producing a profusion of fine fruit from the 20th November until the end of January. The next best sorts are the British Queen and Elton Pine. These two late sorts successively prolong the strawberry season until other small fruits are profusely ripe.

Budded fruit trees may now be untied; and towards the end of the month pruning may be commenced upon currant bushes and raspberries which have fully shed their leaves.

In flower gardening, continue the planting of bulbous flower roots, the lifting, drying and storing of dahlia roots, the taking up and protecting of geraniums and other tender plants unlikely to withstand the winter; continue the subdivision and increase of flower border plants, thus prudently providing for the gaiety of the garden during the coming season.

Evergreens of many varieties may continue to be successfully transplanted, settling the earth around the roots of each plant with a heavy drenching of water as soon as planted. Budding may still be performed under all the conditions usually deemed essential to success; and this will apply not merely to fruit trees, but to purple beech, weeping ash, rose acacia, scarlet and double-blossomed thorns, as well as many other choice trees and shrubs, which attain greater perfection and more luxuriant growth when established on vigorous stocks of a kindred character.

Greenhouse climbing plants—the beauty of which has passed away—may now be trimmed in, and neatly trained, so disposing their branches as to make the most effective display of blossoms throughout the course of another season. Water may be withheld from their roots, and syringing overhead may now be discontinued; permitted thus to rest from growth for a time, they will shoot forth in spring with greatly renewed vigour, and richly ornament the greenhouse with a profusion of handsome bloom throughout the whole of the summer.