

GARDEN CALENDAR

THE rapid progress of Gardening in the Province, taken in connection with the re-establishment of Three Annual Horticultural Exhibitions in Christchurch, the existence of several hot-houses, and promised construction of many more,—are facts which point plainly to the necessity for additional information, bearing mainly upon a more advanced stage of Gardening.

Whilst, therefore, longer experience confirms the trustworthy accuracy of the Garden Calendars hitherto published in the "Southern Provinces Almanac," rendering any material modification of these undesirable, it has, nevertheless, been thought necessary to extend their usefulness by adding to each Monthly Calendar ample directions for the management of the Green-house and the Vinery, rendering the production of handsome flowers and luscious grapes in glass structures as easily effected as common out-door gardening.

The information which I have given is based upon an extended practical experience, and has for its object the improvement and extension of the higher department of gardening, simplified and reduced to the plainest practical details.

W. WILSON.

Christchurch, January 1, 1864.

JANUARY.

Soft roll your incense, herbs and fruit and flowers,
In mingled clouds to Him, whose sun exalts,
Whose wisdom perfumes, and whose pencil paints.—THOMSON.

General Observations on the Weather—Cabbage, Broccoli and Savoy Planting—Transplant Lettuce, Leek, Endive, and Celery Plants—Sow Turnips, &c.—General Directions for the management of the Greenhouse, Orchard and Flower Garden.

THE opening month of the year corresponds to an English July in season and in temperature—in drying wind and in all the characteristics of an English mid-summer, with its bright sunshine, dry atmosphere, and increasing warmth, slightly intensified. These atmospheric conditions usually attain their greatest intensity about the end of the present and commencement of the ensuing month. It is, therefore, a matter of peculiar importance in gardening to finish the planting and sowing of winter vegetables during the earlier period of the month, while the ground still retains a portion of the moisture acquired during the usually showery month of December, for if the operations of planting and sowing are carried on while the soil is dry, the sun bright, and the winds parching, the chances of successful gardening must necessarily become greatly diminished.

Seize, therefore, the commencement of the month for the planting of London and Walcheren cauliflowers; imperial white winter, and other sorts of flowering broccoli; early York, nonpareil, and drumhead cabbages; globe savoys, brussels sprouts, curled greens, and other varieties of winter vegetables.

Transplant also cabbage and cos lettuce, green curled endive, leeks and celery, planting the latter vegetable in well manured trenches in the shadiest and moistest portion of the garden; if desired to be very large and fine, it must

have frequent copious waterings during the drier portion of the season; for, being naturally a rapid growing semi-aquatic plant, it requires a rich moist soil when under artificial cultivation.

Sow broccoli, cress, mustard, endive, lettuce, french beans, radishes, onions, carrots, swede, yellow aberdeen, and white stone turnips; and risk yet a final sowing of peas and broad beans, which will be fit for gathering about the beginning of April, if they escape the contingency of early autumn frosts.

Gather all sorts of garden seeds as they ripen. Hoe advancing crops of cauliflowers, and shade with their own leaves large heads of nearly matured crops. Earth up the crops of celery, cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts, and other winter greens planted in December.

Pull full-grown garlic, eschalots, and onions; prune crowded melons under glass, and plant cuttings of them for a successional crop; give copious daily waterings to cucumbers.

Gather sage-tops, lavender-spikes, camomile flowers, and plants of penny-royal, hyssop, mint, balm, marjoram, and other aromatic herbs, and place them to dry for winter use.

Commence budding fruit trees on cloudy days, and stake the expanding shoots of spring-grafted ones, displacing all suckers and shoots beneath the graft. Summer-prune all gross and superfluous shoots in fruit trees of whatever kind, and support branches which give promise of being broken down by over-abundant crops.

Transplant, shade and water biennials and fibrous-rooted perennials sown in spring or in the beginning of summer. Clear away the decaying stems of such herbaceous plants as have done flowering. Take up and dry such bulbous roots as the decaying state of the leaves imply ripened roots and fitness for drying.

Support and water choice carnations, dahlias, and hollyhocks; and propagate sweet-williams, pinks, and carnations, by layers and pipings, taking care to water freely and shade fully every bright day.

Greenhouse plants now in bloom will require to be carefully staked and supplied with an abundance of water every afternoon, and on specially hot and parching days they are likely to require to be more or less watered; twice a day during this and the succeeding month, whilst a partial shade from the overpowering brightness of the mid-day sun will preserve the purity of the colors of their flowers and greatly prolong their endurance.

Vineries, devoted mainly to the production of grapes, should be closed in early in the afternoon, immediately after which, the borders of the house may be sprinkled, and the vines syringed with clean water which has undergone some hours exposure to the sun; this treatment will create a warm, moist atmosphere, in which the grapes will swell with great rapidity.

FEBRUARY.

Rich in content, in Nature's bounty rich
In herbs and fruits; whatever greens the spring,
When Heaven descends in showers or bends the bough,
When Summer reddens and when Autumn beams.—THOMSON.

The Weather—Directions for Gathering Fruits and Seeds—Weeding—Sowing Autumn Crops—Pruning—The Flower Garden—The Greenhouse and Vinery.

This, the first autumnal month, like that of August in England, usually displays more of the characteristics of summer weather than that of autumn. Vegetation is still in the midst of luxuriant growth, although the weather is generally hot and dry, so much so, as to suspend, in a great degree, the usual