

may be mixed and made to the consistency of cream by the use of tobacco water, and if this be applied with a painter's brush, it will effectually destroy the spider, brown scale, and other insects destructive in a more or less degree to the fruit and foliage of the vine, the depredations of which are easily prevented by resorting to this timely precaution.

AUGUST.

Come, gentle Spring, ethereal mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veild in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.—THOMSON.

Commencement of Spring—Changeable Weather—Sowing, Digging, Pruning and Planting—Onions—Spring Salading—Spinach—Curled Parsley for Edgings—Sow Cabbages, Cauliflowers, &c.—Transplant Rhubarb, Asparagus, and Sea-kale, and make Fresh Sowings—Early Cucumbers, Melons, Celery, Capsicums, and Tomatoes—Hasten Deferred Planting of Fruit Trees—The Flower Garden—Sow Sweet Peas, Mignonette, &c.—Transplant Sweet-Williams, Stocks, Daisies, Wallflower, Primroses, Violets, &c.—Re-potting Greenhouse Plants—Fork Vine Borders.

From the beginning of August we date the commencement of spring, which exhibits closely the changeable characteristics of an English February, especially from the beginning to the middle of the month. One day is warm and pleasant, with a soft, mild, and spring-like atmosphere; a second is cold and bracing, with sharp morning frosts; whilst a third is cold, wet, and stormy. After which, several delightful days may succeed, rapidly exciting vegetation, and fully indicating the presence of spring, as further exemplified by the swelling buds of gooseberries and thorns, and by the re-appearance of crocuses, snowdrops, and other early spring flowering bulbs, whose return reminds us that the season is at hand for renewed exertions in sowing, digging, pruning, and planting as often as favourable weather and a suitable condition of the soil may afford proper opportunities.

Although early autumn sown onions produce by far the largest and finest bulbs, yet a fine crop may still be obtained by sowing at once in beds four and a half feet in width, with from five to seven rows in each bed, covered with finely raked or sifted soil; although wood ashes, if conveniently obtainable, are better than either.

Onions ought to be sown considerably thicker than most other vegetable seeds, from their peculiar liability to failure.

Early peas may now be generally sown in rows from one to four feet apart, the distance being regulated by the habit of the variety; that is, whether dwarf or tall; though the strong winds of midsummer, taken in connection with the scarcity of pea-stakes, must ever ensure for the dwarfiest sorts a decided preference.

Four of the best of these are early dwarf, emperor, early queen of dwarf, lord raglan, and late dwarf blue imperial; and three of the best of intermediate height are fairbeard's early surprise, woodford's green marrow, and blue prussian; and three of the best of the very tall varieties are, the alliance, the champion of england, and the ne-plus-ultra.

Broad beans may now be generally planted in lines across the garden squares, twenty-four inches asunder; the lesser sorts, like the early mazagan, two inches; and the larger varieties, like the windsor, four inches apart. Three of the best varieties are long-pod, green windsor, and broad windsor, the latter being generally esteemed the best.

A first sowing of early short-horn carrots may now be made, though some risk

of the crop starting prematurely to seed always attends the early sowing of this vegetable.

Parsnips sown this month grow larger and finer than later crops. They are usually sown in beds four and a half feet wide, with four rows in each, and afterwards singled out so as to stand about seven inches apart.

Cress, mustard, radish, and lettuce, for spring salading, may continue to be sown at fortnightly intervals.

Spinach may now be sown in rows ten inches apart, and a similar distance may be allowed to such of the thinnings of last month's sowing as may now be coming fit for transplanting.

Curled parsley—either as an edging to garden walks, or for the purpose of defining the backs of borders—may now be sown in continuous lines.

Seeds of cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli, savoys, brussels sprouts, and curled greens, to produce early spring plants, may now be sown; and autumn-sown plants of each of these varieties, now fit for removal, may be at once transplanted.

Rhubarb, asparagus, and sea-kale may be sown, and last year's roots of each, where not already done, may yet be safely transplanted. First sowings, on a slight hot-bed, of early cucumbers and melons, celery, capsicums, and tomatoes may now be made, at this early period of the season, to be forced into growth by the aid of artificial heat.

Apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, figs, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, and strawberries should now be planted as soon as possible; for the increasing strength of the sun's rays is daily becoming less favourable to a high degree of success.

Sweet peas, mignonette, and the numerous varieties of hardy or half-hardy annual, biennial, and perennial flower seeds should at once be sown; and plants of sweet-williams, stocks, wallflowers, daisies, primroses, violets and many other plants of a similar class can now be successfully transplanted.

Returning spring suggests the necessity for renewed activity in all matters relating to green-house cultivation; first, however, amongst the more pressing duties of the season, will be that of shifting to large flower-pots all plants requiring additional pot room to enable them to increase their growth, and to perfect their bloom. For this purpose, flower-pots at least twice or three times the size of those the plants now occupy, should be well drained with broken flower-pots or small pieces of brick, and the plants potted in these in a mixture of something like good garden soil of a rich black loam, to which one-third of well decomposed manure has been added.

After potting, re-arrange the plants in the green-house, shading slightly from the brightness of the mid-day sun, and sprinkling freely with slightly diluted water every morning and evening for one week, throughout the whole of which abstain from giving any water at the roots.

Vines may now be carefully trained and tied in to their proper positions; the outer borders may be freshly forked up, and the inner borders loosened and well drenched with water. The temperature of the house may be increased by reduced ventilation, and by closing in the vinery early every afternoon, with a warm moist atmosphere.