

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 have 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.

Cuttings of verbenas and geraniums, and many other soft-wooded plants may still be planted with the certainty of their shooting freely, and still being in time to make good blooming plants during the following summer.

Grass lawns and walks, frequently mown and rolled during the months of Autumn, will present a much smoother and greener appearance during the Winter months, because of the extra care bestowed, and as greenness and smoothness are the two first considerations in the management of all well kept lawns, no reasonable efforts ought to be spared at this season to secure in their fullest perfection the accomplishment of these very desirable advantages.

## MAY.

Nature! great parent! whose unceasing hand  
Rolls round the seasons of the changeful year.  
How mighty, how majestic are thy works!  
With what a pleasing dread they swell the soul,  
That sees astonish'd!—THOMSON.

*First Winter Month—Transplanting, Pruning, Manuring, Digging, &c.—Sowing limited to Mustard and Cress—Transplanting—Cabbage—Cauliflower—Lettuce—Fruit Trees—Forest and Evergreen Shrubs—Winter Pruning—Espalier Training for Raspberries, Gooseberries, and Currants—Lift and Store Carrots and Parsnips, &c.—Sea-kale Beds—Asparagus—Rhubarb Beds—Trim Herbaceous Plants—Protect Geraniums, Verbenas, &c.—Commence Planting of Bulbous Flower Roots—Potting Greenhouse Plants—Levelling and Laying Lawns.*

MAY, the counterpart of an English November, and first month of winter, ushers itself in, not in storms and tempests as in England, but in all the peaceful stillness, warmth, and sunshine of an English August. The nights, it is true, are often sharp and cold; but down to the middle of the month the days generally are bright and beautiful, and it is only towards its close that the first symptoms of approaching winter begin to be felt.

The month, therefore, is still highly favourable to garden operations, though chiefly those of transplanting, pruning, manuring, digging, trenching, and the like; for seed sowing has now become limited to successional sowings of mustard and cress, to keep up the supply of small salading. But transplanting, although applicable to autumn sown plants of cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuce and spinach for spring use, now embraces a wider range, and includes gooseberries, currants, apples, pears, cherries, and other fruit trees, as well as many sorts of forest trees and evergreen shrubs; for it is a well established fact in gardening, that all sorts of trees which are planted when just shedding their leaves at once re-establish themselves, and make much better growth during the following summer than spring-planted ones. Wherever, therefore, fruit and forest tree planting is contemplated, every effort should be made to get as much of it done this month as possible.

The season for commencing winter pruning has now arrived, as indicated by the falling leaves of gooseberries and currants. In performing this operation, first divest the bush of all suckers for these are generally gross unfruitful shoots, which only mar the symmetry and vigour of the bush.

The young wood must be thoroughly cleared out from the centre, and the side shoots kept at least six inches apart, so that when the bush is pruned it should present the form of a spacious cup; this mode of pruning being best adapted to admit a sufficiency of light and air, two essential elements in the production of large, high-flavoured fruit.

In pruning raspberries, first divest them of last year's fruit-bearing wood, then reduce the shoots of the past summer to not more than from three to five of the strongest young canes to each plant, and these may be shortened to one-fourth their length, and securely tied to a strong stake, or against an espalier rail, which is a secure and excellent mode of training both raspberries and currants.

Carrots, parsnips, salsafy, and scorzonera roots may now be lifted and stored in dry sand; and the land on which they were grown may be thrown up in ridges, to expose the greatest extent of surface to the beneficial influence of rain, sun, and air.

Dress sea-kale beds with a good sprinkling of salt, and a covering of stable manure; first removing the decayed leaves, and stirring the surface of the bed a few inches in depth.

Clear away also the ripened haulm of asparagus, first loosening the surface, and then dressing the bed with eight or ten inches of fresh seaweed; or, in the absence of this, give a heavy dressing of salt, and then cover with six inches of well-rotted stable manure, for both sea-kale and asparagus are well-known to luxuriate mostly in soils highly impregnated with saline substances.

Rhubarb beds should now be cleaned and heavily manured; for this vegetable, if grown in perfection, requires a much more rich and moist soil than is usually allowed to it.

Globe artichokes may now have their decaying stems and leaves cut away, the surface loosened with a fork, and the ground around strewn with litter, to protect their roots from the injury they are likely to sustain from the frost.

Herbaceous plants which have done blooming will now require to be trimmed; decaying annuals removed; fuchsias, geraniums, verbenas, and other similar plants will now require to be protected. The planting of bulbous roots may be commenced, and the flower borders neatly dug, to give them a freshness of appearance pleasing to the eye, which will in some small degree compensate for the absence of floral display.

Deciduous trees and shrubs which have fully completed their growth and perfectly matured their young wood to its extremity, and from which the yellow leaves of autumn are beginning to fall, may now be very successfully transplanted, for early autumn planting is in variably the most successful; for the descending sap of trees enables them at once to form new roots and establish themselves ready to start into a growth in spring not unfrequently as luxuriant as that which is obtained from trees which have been one whole season established.

The gaiety of the greenhouse will now be nearly over for the season, most of the old established geraniums, fuchsias, verbenas and others of a similar class may now be closely pruned in, and transferred to smaller pots by having the ball of earth reduced, and their roots reasonably trimmed; a dry atmosphere may be maintained with a free circulation of air every fine day, and watering at the roots will not now be required more than once a week; under this treatment the plants will almost entirely rest from growth for two months, being thereby better fitted to start into a vigorous growth in spring.

Vineries should have an abundance of air every dry day to thoroughly ripen the young wood of the vines, and thus fit them for the important operation of careful pruning, for the proper performance of which—see next month.

Grass lawns may now be levelled by lifting and relaying the turf; or new lawns may in this way and at this season be advantageously formed; for the frequent showers will preserve the colour of the newly formed sward; and if the turf is closely fitted it will rapidly unite at this season and very soon form a smooth even sward, requiring one or two close mowings and rollings, which will enable it to preserve a fresh and agreeable appearance until the recommencement of growth in early Spring.

## JUNE.

In Winter, awful Thou! with clouds and storms  
Around Thee thrown, tempest o'er tempest roll'd,  
Majestic darkness!—THOMSON.

*Winter Weather—Pruning and Transplanting—Apples, Pears, Plums, &c.—Planting of Forest Trees, Evergreens, and Ornamental Shrubs, Thorns, Privets, &c.—Native Shrubs—Planting—Onions, Eschalots, Garlic—Regulation of Beds—Manure—Wood-Ashes—Rhubarb—Asparagus Beds, Salt Dressing—Plant Bulbous Flower Roots, Anemones, Ranunculus, Lily of the Valley, &c.—Pruning Vines—Ornamental Shrubberies—Protection of Choice Plants.*

GLOOMY days, frequent rains, occasional frosts, and now and then a well-known "southerly burster" are significant symptoms of the return of winter. These, however, are quietly borne with, because, when