

GARDEN CALENDAR.

THE Calendars hitherto published in the "Southern Provinces Almanac" have been deficient in information relating to Ornamental Gardening, from the fact that the first efforts of our early settlers had been mainly confined to the production of vegetables, and afterwards fruits or flowers, only in a moderate degree; thus conforming first to the law of necessity, but afterwards securing the conveniences and luxuries which advancing refinement confers.

And now that greater leisure and the progress of improvement afford a still wider latitude for the exercise of Ornamental Gardening, I have thought it advisable to supply this deficiency by extending the length of each Calendar, and adding to its usefulness by the addition of a paragraph upon the formation and management of Grass Lawns and Walks, as well as Shrubberies and Pleasure Grounds, believing that further information of this kind will be useful for the owners of suburban residences, amongst whom a commendable spirit of rivalry has arisen, each endeavouring to excel his neighbour in handsome lawns, well-formed walks, tastefully shaped flower beds, and shrubberies planted with a neatness, order and variety, falling but little short of the ornamental character of the grounds which usually surround similar residences in England.

It is hoped that the information imparted in the Calendars will encourage an increasing spirit of emulation in Ornamental Gardening, thereby adorning the residences of our more prosperous classes, as well as largely improving the general appearance of the Province.

Christchurch, 1st January, 1865.

W. WILSON.

JANUARY.

Soft roll your incense, herbs and fruits 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—Mowing Grass Walks and Lawns.

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 midsummer, 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 dryer portion of the season; for, being a naturally 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 bulbous roots, the decaying state of whose leaves implies 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.

Grass walks and lawns will now require to be very frequently mown, even so often as once a-week where it is desired to have them kept very neat and smooth. If this operation is performed with a scythe it will be best done upon showery or dewy mornings. Mowing machines are now, however, beginning to be much more generally used than scythes, and are much more expeditious, for they not only cut smoother and better, but equally well whether the grass is wet or dry, whilst they both roll the lawn and collect the cut grass all by the one operation.