

## 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 has now restricted the varieties of vegetable seeds necessary to be sown this month to final sowings of cabbages, cauliflowers, savoy, 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 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 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 that all sorts of trees which are planted during the following summer than spring-planted ones. Wherever, therefore, 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.