

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 invariably 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 buster," are significant symptoms of the return of winter. These, however, are quietly borne with, because, when compared with our recollections of an English winter, the corresponding season here appears of comparatively short duration; and, besides, has the redeeming merit of affording an occasional beautiful day.

Seed sowing is now entirely suspended, but suitable weather will afford opportunities to continue pruning and transplanting; for now is the season for pruning all sorts of apples, pears, plums, and other fruit trees, the young wood of which should be shortened back one-third of its length, and all the weaker shoots spurred in, removing every branch which either crosses another or seems to interfere with the symmetrical form of the tree. Excessive pruning, however, which new comers are too apt to indulge in, ought not to be allowed; for severe pruning only fills a vigorous tree with a rush of young wood instead of fruit, thus proving that pre-acquired home ideas of pruning are too often, in New Zealand, very much at fault.

The transplanting of all sorts of fruit trees may be continued; and the present is also a suitable season for the planting of all sorts of forest trees, evergreens and ornamental shrubs, and also for thorns, privets, sweet-briars, and other plants suitable for hedges, as well as such of the native shrubs and trees as are known to bear removal. These are all best transplanted at this season; for dull days, a moist atmosphere, and occasional rains, may be all regarded as circumstances favourable to successful transplanting.

Now is a suitable season to commence planting eschalots, garlic, and potato or underground onions, first manuring and digging the ground, then laying it off in beds four feet in width, with four rows in the bed, and from seven to nine inches from set to set. The bed may then be topped off with a thin covering of wood-ashes—a material in which all bulbous roots, whether useful or ornamental, seem to luxuriate.

New plantations of rhubarb may now be made. The usual mode is to plant two rows in a bed four feet wide, and two feet apart in the rows.

Asparagus beds may now be formed, not in the costly manner often resorted to in England, but by simply manuring and digging a piece of good land, then marking it off in four-and-a-half-foot beds, on each of which plant three lines of one year old roots at nine-inch distance, then shovel from the intervening paths just sufficient soil to cover the crowns of the plants, then give a heavy dressing with salt, and finish off with a covering of six inches of well decomposed manure. Beds so planted will yield several good gatherings the second summer after planting, and from the third season will afford an abundant supply of this delicious vegetable, which in no portion of the world is produced in greater perfection than in New Zealand.

Flowering bulbs, such as crocuses, snow-drops, jonquils, hyacinths, narcissus, and tuberous-rooted plants, such as anemones and ranunculus, and even more fibrous-rooted plants, like lily-of-the-valley and other convallarias, should now be planted; for the early spring blossoms of these lend to the flower borders their first attraction, and when judiciously blended with the choicer sorts of autumn-sown annuals, are capable of awakening in every true lover of floral beauty a deep feeling of admiration.

Recently planted trees and shrubs of large size, to ensure their greater stability, may possibly now require to be staked or otherwise supported, for strong south-westers, accompanied with drenching rains, have a tendency to lay over newly-planted trees, thereby breaking their recently formed roots, which careful staking will entirely obviate.

Maintain in the greenhouse as dry a temperature as the character of the weather will allow, taking advantage of every fine day to give plenty of air.

Vines which have fully ripened their wood, and from which the grapes have been gathered, will now require to be pruned; this will be best performed by spurring into two eyes each of the side-shoots, and shortening the leading cane to one-third of its length. The outer rough bark, presenting a ragged appearance on the old wood of the vine, may now be removed, after which every inch of the vine should be effectually brushed with a hard brush, so as to dislodge the existence of insect life, which usually harbour beneath the loose bark of the vine, in a state of torpor, during the dormant months of winter, ready to emerge into active life with the first warm weather of early summer.

Choice plants standing upon grass lawns may now require some degree of protection to enable them to withstand the severity of the frosts which occasionally prevail during this and the succeeding month.

Where the plants to be protected are of moderate or of small size only, the simplest means of protection is a canvas awning in the form of a pyramid, sufficient to cover the plant; or a still simpler means is to place stakes around the plant to be protected, meeting them at a point above its top, and filling in over and around the plant with dry fern.

JULY.

. . . Mysterious round! what skill, what force divine
Deep-felt in these appear! a simple train,
Yet so delightful mixed, with such kind art,
Such beauty and beneficence combined.—THOMSON.

Winter Frosts—Sow Peas and Beans—Cress, Mustard, Radish, and Spinach—Commence Planting Early Potatoes—Pruning and Transplanting Fruit Trees, Shrubs and Hedge Plants—Beds for Rhubarb and Asparagus—Remove Sea-kale—Manure—The Flower Garden—Plant Bulbs, &c.—Prune and Transplant Roses—Sow Sweet Peas and Mignonette—Flowering Bulbs in Greenhouses—Dress Vines to Destroy Insects.—The Care of Shrubs, Lawns, Borders, and Walks.

WE are now in the depth of winter, and must be content with occasional rains, alternating with bright days, succeeded by sharp frosts at night, which usually attain their greatest intensity between the beginning and middle of the month. These, however, are not more severe than the frosts of an English November, and are just sufficiently sharp to produce a clear healthy bracing atmosphere. Such weather, of course, seldom interrupts the ordinary seasonable operations of gardening; for even now we begin to anticipate approaching spring, by commencing to sow peas and beans on all light dry sandy soils, the earliest sown crops of these being by far the most productive, especially when sown on land which has been under repeated cultivation.