

Fruit trees, especially vines, peaches, and nectarines, are liable to produce more young wood than is either favourable to the future production of fine fruit, or conducive to the general vigour and symmetry of the tree. Pinch out, therefore, with the finger and thumb, all seemingly superabundant shoots, leaving only such as are likely to leave the tree symmetrical and well-proportioned.

Established raspberries, especially on a hot, dry soil, are liable at this season to throw up numerous suckers, which should either be frequently cut with a garden hoe or very carefully lifted with a fork; for they are produced at the expense and to the great injury of the parent fruit-bearing plants, at the bottom of each of which from three to five young shoots, left for next year's fruit-bearing canes, are amply sufficient.

Strawberries out of bloom should have frequent liberal waterings, to assist them in swelling their fruit.

Flower gardens should be neatly hoed and raked, and sweet peas, Brompton stocks, dahlias, hollyhocks, and other tall growing plants, will now require to be staked or otherwise supported; whilst all the other dwarf-growing and choicer sorts of flowers will have their brilliancy of colours and duration of bloom greatly prolonged by frequent shading and watering.

The green-house will now be profusely gay with all the rich and gaudily-coloured flowers which geraniums, fuchsias, and verbenas in a full blaze of bloom can impart, brought out in contrast and heightened in effect by the gaiety of numerous other flowering plants, exhibiting every shade of colour as well as a large diversity of foliage.

The duration of this display will be best maintained by watering freely at the root only, by airing largely every calm day, and by shading the house slightly from the brightness of the mid-day sun.

Climbing plants, growing up the rafters and columns of the house, will require frequent pruning and training, so that the beauty of their gay blossoms may not be obscured by the density of overcrowded leaves and branches.

Vineries will require a rigid adherence to instructions previously given with reference to temperature, moisture, and ventilation, increasing, however, the two first conditions of culture, and reducing the third as the vines enter upon the critical stage of blooming and setting their fruit; a high moist temperature and somewhat close atmosphere will favour the setting of all the varieties of grapes, and will be found to be completely indispensable to the Alexandrian and cannon-ball muscats, as well as several other of the imperfectly setting but higher flavoured varieties.

Stop all lateral shoots at the first joint, and tie up with care every branch which has fruit to support, and permit no more than one bunch of grapes to each branch.

Flower beds standing upon grass lawns, which have been well filled with flowering greenhouse plants, now starting forth into vigorous growth, will not only require at this season frequent watering, but also continued attention to tying and staking; for rapid growing, soft-wooded plants, like dahlias, are liable to be broken with the wind unless supported by strong stakes and tied in at least once every week; care being taken to bind very loosely so as to allow room for the growth of the daily swelling stems, which require ample room for expansion.

DECEMBER.

Be gracious heaven! for now laborious man
Has done his part. Ye tender showers descend!
And temper all, thou world-reviving sun,
Into the perfect year!—THOMSON.

Midsummer—Luxuriant Vegetation—Budding Fruit Trees—Garden Employment—French Beans—Radishes, Lettuce, &c.—Sow Swedes—Plant out Cabbages, Cauliflowers, &c.—Turnips—Winter Greens—The Flower Garden—Christmas Fruit and Flowers—Greenhouse Plants out of bloom—Thinning Grapes—Trim Lawn and Shrubbery Hedges.

MIDSUMMER begins with the commencement of the present month, which is especially the season of luscious fruits and beautiful flowers. The trees also rejoice in their leafy pride, the fields luxuriate in the abundance of their verdure, and animated nature is full of life and enjoyment.

Exuberant growth in gardens everywhere prevails, and especially amongst fruit trees, which now require to have both the fruit and young growths properly thinned; the rapid growths of the stocks of fruit trees and roses fit them for commencing the operation of budding, care being always taken to select for the operation a showery or cloudy day.

The season for seed sowing is now so far advanced that the chief gardening duties of the present month will be the care rather of those crops we have sown, than of the few we can still successfully commit to the ground; for, although such as peas and beans may be sown, yet the crops they are likely to produce will not be quite equal to those sown last and previous months; and although they produce equally well, yet a considerable portion of the pods are liable to be destroyed by a caterpillar abounding at this season.

French beans and scarlet runners may be planted, and additional sowings of radishes, lettuces, cress and mustard, may be continued; but the chief crops which claim attention this month are turnips, a large breadth of which should now be sown for winter use. The yellow swede, for use as a vegetable, should be sown as early as possible in December, and the yellow and white garden varieties about the end of the present and beginning of the ensuing month.

The earlier part of the present month is usually characterised by frequent showers, of which advantage should be taken to plant out cabbages, cauliflowers, savoys, Brussels sprouts, and flowering broccolis, all of which ought now to be extensively planted; for upon the exertions made at this season the limited or plentiful supply of winter vegetables will entirely depend.

Flower borders should now be exhibiting a profusion of roses, fuchsias, geraniums, pinks, carnations, stocks, and sweet williams, with many sorts of flowering bulbs and numerous varieties of lovely annuals; and though at Christmas we can neither suspend "mistletoe boughs" from the ceilings of our dwellings, nor display bunches of holly-berries, yet by the time of its arrival we shall be able to pile our tables with delicious strawberries, and revel amid the fragrance and beauty of wreaths of blooming roses—luxuries which the noblest and wealthiest of England's aristocracy cannot at this season obtain.

Greenhouse plants which have done blooming may now be removed to a cold frame, or placed under the shade of a wall or fence having a southerly aspect. The removal of these from the shelves of the house will afford room for the introduction from the melon and cucumber frame, of such handsome flowering tender and other annuals, in pots, as balsams, cockscombs, globe amaranths, white and purple egg plants, phlox, drummondii, humea elegans, gallardia picta, blue nemophila, coreopsis drummondii, sensitive plant, and other similarly ornamental and interesting varieties, all of which will add greatly to the attractions of the greenhouse, and aid materially in maintaining its continued gaiety throughout the whole of the summer and some of the months of autumn.

Vineries in which the grapes are fully set may now receive air much more freely, and fire heat ought to be entirely suspended, unless early grapes are desired, for the fruit, from this stage of its growth, will swell to a larger size under the genial influences of a well-regulated temperature produced by sun-heat only. Air freely, therefore, every fine morning as soon as the sunshine sensibly raises the temperature of the house; scorched foliage—a two frequent defect—will thus be avoided, which results only from neglected morning ventilation.

As soon as the grapes have attained to a size similar to very small peas, commence slightly raising and supporting the shoulders of the bunches; after which thin out with a pair of grape thinning scissors a full two-thirds of the unequal sized berries, thus leaving those which remain full room to swell to a large size; or the free use of the thinning-scissors is an inevitable necessity when large well-coloured fruit is desired.

Close in the vinery early every afternoon, syringing freely overhead, thus securing a warm humid atmosphere, highly favourable to the health of the vines, and very largely conducive to the production of fine fruit.

Ornamental hedges bounding grass lawns and shrubberies will now have made growth sufficiently long to require close trimming in, for all such screens, which are intended not merely for shelter but also for ornament, ought to be neatly trimmed at least twice every year. The hedge will thus very soon acquire desirable density and neatness of appearance, thereby blending both the advantages of improved shelter and greater ornament, two very desirable acquisitions, both of which tend greatly to increase the enjoyment derivable from ornamental gardening.
