

Brussels sprouts are frequently at this time attacked by a grey-coloured aphid, which, if unchecked, speedily puts an end to them. It is easily destroyed by syringing them with boiling water. Use an ordinary garden syringe and apply with plenty of force. Keep the ground well hoed between growing crops of cabbages, broccoli, &c. This keeps the soil open and ready for rain, and ensures that when the rainy season sets in, as it soon will, it will find the ground free of weeds and in a condition that will allow it to sink in readily. Frequent working of the ground has also some effect in checking the ravages of the caterpillar of the diamond-back moth, for when disturbed many of them drop to the ground, and if they are buried by the hoe they cannot rise again.

SMALL FRUIT.

Sow *Cape gooseberry* seed in boxes. The young plants should be pricked off into other boxes, and kept under shelter till danger of frost is past in spring. It is important that strong plants be secured for planting, otherwise the first season's crop of fruit is likely to be small.

Strawberry runners should be taken off as soon as there is moisture enough in the soil to re-establish them in nurse-beds. If the foliage on established beds is diseased, it should all be mown off, gathered up, and burned. Some authorities of repute advise that in such cases the whole plantation should be burned over. To effect this a light covering of straw is applied, unless a mulch has been employed, which may now supply material for the purpose. In any case the foliage should be cut off first, but if the bed is to be burned over there is no need to remove it. Let it dry a little and all will burn together. This appears to be a rather drastic measure, but it is said that the plants break up again with remarkable vigour. Discrimination is doubtless necessary in determining the thickness of cover to burn.

FLOWER-GARDEN.

Chrysanthemums will be showing buds. The plants should be properly secured to stakes. Growth is very rapid about this time, and if the plants are not properly secured to their supports the branches become twisted and cannot be satisfactorily lifted afterwards. If the plants have several main stems these should be spread out, not bunched up indiscriminately to one stake. It is advisable to thin the buds in most instances. No amount of thinning at this time will cause the production of large blooms, but it will increase the size and prevent overcrowding with small blooms. The object of thinning should be to reduce the number of flowers on a spray to reasonable limits, not to destroy its contour.