

Gooseberries and *Currants*.—It is unlikely that the annual pruning will be undertaken yet, but weeds may demand attention, and in that case it will be an advantage to the work to remove any straggling branches there may be, and, in the case of gooseberries, to shear off the drooping ends of branches, so as to render it easier to work around the bushes. A mulch of manure around and beneath the bushes will keep the ground clean as well as manure them.

Where *strawberries* are to be manured by a mulch of manure, it may be put on at any time. It is best done some weeks in advance of growth, so that the fertilizing properties may become washed out and into the soil, the debris remaining clean as a check to weeds and protection for the fruit from dirt. Doubtless some of the manure will be leached through the soil, but there is also loss in other ways if it is kept till spring.

THE FLOWER-GARDEN AND TREE-PLANTING.

Planting *roses* may be taken in hand now. The planting season extends from the middle of April until the middle of July in an ordinary way, with a still further extension in cases of necessity for a further period of about six weeks. Autumn planting is to be preferred, for the reason that as the bushes become re-established before winter they are in a condition in spring that enables them to break away strongly and more vigorously than those planted in spring can do. There is one great difference in treatment to be observed in autumn planting—that is, there must be very little pruning done at the time of planting. Straggling branches may be shortened to some extent, and soft shoots—late and immature growths—may be cut out. Beyond this the bushes should be planted as they are when lifted, the object being to retain as much foliage as possible, as the foliage is necessary to promote the formation of new roots. If this were not accomplished it would be better to leave planting till a later date. The object of shortening branches as described is twofold—first, to relieve the depleted roots of undue strain; secondly, to enable the plants to stand firm by the removal of some of the top hamper, which if left on would give wind too much play on them. New roots cannot form unless the bush stands firm. It is important that the soil should be trampled firmly over the roots, not only to keep the bush firmly in position but also to ensure that all roots are in close contact with the soil, a very necessary condition to the formation of new roots. It is of equal importance that the surface soil shall be quite loose, so as to enable rain and air to readily penetrate. *Roses* are commonly reputed to do best on clay land. Doubtless this is to a large extent misunderstood. They do better in heavy soil than in that of a very light character, and in such soil they are benefited by an addition of clay—that is, clay of a kind.