

to land being prepared for planting out permanent crops such as asparagus and rhubarb. It should be clean, rich, and deeply worked; a good dressing of kainit for the asparagus and superphosphate for the rhubarb should be included.

When the foliage has died down on rhubarb that is to be replanted, spare roots may be lifted and forced in a dark shed maintained at a temperature of 55° F. to 65° F. Place the roots close together with a little light soil between and maintain a humid atmosphere by means of tepid water.

In frost-free localities peas and potatoes are planted now for harvesting in early spring. For this purpose a variety of main-crop pea is chosen; a good strain of Stratagem is popular.

Small and Sundry Fruits, &c.

The unusually high price of shelled sweet almonds at the present time has drawn attention to the production of these and other nuts. From the little experience we have had of almond-growing in the Dominion the indications are that they thrive best in the drier districts where late spring frosts are not severe. Isolated trees are usually barren, as they are generally self-sterile, and to obtain a crop at least two varieties must be planted. The soft-shell varieties are preferable, such as I.X.L., Ne Plus Ultra, and Hatch's Nonpareil. These are also suitable for cross-pollination, which will be most effective if bees are kept in the vicinity. An average crop is 5 lb. or 6 lb. of nuts per tree; but twice that weight may be obtained from the above-mentioned varieties under good conditions. The kernels weigh rather more than half the weight of the nuts. Bordeaux sprays in spring and autumn are required to control shot-hole and other fungi. A good soil that is light and well drained suits them best.

Sweet chestnuts (*Castanea vesca*, syn. *Castanea sativa*) are from the mountain forests of Southern Europe and Western Asia. They are handsome deciduous trees with useful timber. Baked or boiled the nuts make a wholesome dish, and are usually popular where they are plentiful. There is ample evidence here that the trees will crop well on good warm hilly country. A group of these trees looks well and provides useful shade, as well as a crop of nuts. Like other nuts, when properly cured, they have good keeping-qualities and may be used at any season.

Filberts, hazels, and cob-nuts are popular names given to varieties of *Corylus colurna* and *C. avellana*. Our supplies have chiefly come from Spain, where these trees are grown extensively, especially in the Province of Tarragona. The most suitable soils there are said to be light, cool, and deep, well aerated, and with a fair supply of moisture. Planting-distances there are 8 metres between rows, and 4 to 5 metres between trees in the row, say, 26 ft. between rows and 13 ft. between trees. In cool districts in the Dominion there a few groves planted, and they are cropping well. There appears to be no reason why they should not be extended. When planted in rich, moist soil the trees run to wood and are not profitable. Trees grown with an open centre, on a light well-drained loam, and the suckers suppressed, crop best. Fertilization of the "flowers" is by wind-blown pollen from catkins. For heavy cropping the question of pollination demands careful consideration, but until further variety tests have been carried out here mixed varieties should be planted. An average yield generally is about 1,000 lb. of nuts per acre.

Walnut-culture has been somewhat checked by the prevalence of bacterial blight, but trees vary widely in their susceptibility to this disease. The trouble also is less prevalent in the drier districts.