with nicotine sulphate or DDT emulsion.

Phebalium hedges have often been damaged by boring insects and where boring holes are noticed in these and any other trees, petrol could be squirted into the holes before they are sealed with clay or plugged with a twig. Phebalium is also susceptible to attack by root-rotting fungi, especially where conditions are inclined to be damp. The trees should be planted only where drainage is excellent. If the hedge starts to die out for no visible reason in one area, it may be possible to restrict the damage to that area by drenching the soil with 6 oz of copper oxychloride in 3 gallons of water per square yard. *Lonicera nitida* and many other plants are also susceptible to this trouble.

Climbing Plants

Evergreen climbers including the climbing potato vine *Solanum jasminoides*, ficus, and ivy can be pruned back into position now. All climbing plants thrive best where there is adequate support. Plastic covered flex can be used to construct a cheap and artistic support which will not rust.

In new gardens use should be made of annual climbing plants such as *Mina lobata*, tropaeolum (canary creeper), sweet peas, and ipomea (morning glory) to give quick coverage of bare walls and early interest in the garden.

Shrubbery

Subtropical or tender plants and evergreens which would receive too much shock if planted out in the coldest months can now be planted. All shrubs should be lightly forked round and given a dressing of a balanced fertiliser such as that suggested for use on the flower border.

Native trees can now be lightly pruned to retain their shape. When flowering is finished prunus, kerria, diosma, waratah, coleonema, tamarix, lilac, and spartium can be pruned. The waratahs should be sprayed with malathion or summer oil to prevent a build-up of scale insects. In windy places the young shoots from the base of this plant should be staked. Boronia plants are naturally short lived, but premature death can often be avoided if the plants are sprayed with malathion or DDT emulsion to kill the insects on whose excreta a black sooty mould appears.

Fireblight

Fireblight has caused damage in many areas throughout the country in the past season. This bacterial disease attacks a number of plants in the Rosaceae family including cotoneaster, pyracantha, flowering apples, rowan, and hawthorn, as well as fruiting apples, pears, and quinces. Bees and other insects usually spread the disease from old infected wood when the flowers are in bloom.

Photo News

An old clump of chrysanthemums severely infested with eelworm. The lower leaves have fallen and the stems are hard and woody.

The first symptom is a darkening of the flowers and young twigs which typically turn brown and remain attached to the stem. As the disease is also spread by rain splash and winter pruning, the removal of any diseased wood or general pruning on these plants should be undertaken now during dry weather. Expensive sprays of streptomycin have been used with some success during the blossom period to prevent spread of the disease.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Rhododendrons and azaleas may still be selected while in bloom in the shops and planted out. They require shelter from strong winds and prefer light shade for part of the day. After planting, a mulch of sawdust, to which sulphate of ammonia or blood and bone has been added, should be applied. In the early stages of the life of these plants, and especially with *R. fragrantissimum* and *R. indicum*, the young shoots should be nipped back often during the growing season to encourage a bushier habit.

The foliage of the evergreen azaleas is sometimes infected by a fungous disease, azalea leaf gall. Affected leaves look blistered at this season. They should be picked off and the plants sprayed with a copper fungicide.

Several leaf spots occur on rhododendrons, especially when growing under adverse conditions. Spotted leaves should be removed, conditions improved, and the plant sprayed with a fungicide such as thiram.

Under Glass

Plants which remain in the same pot for several years should be overhauled now. Those requiring repotting should be tipped out of old pots, the loose soil removed from the root area, and the roots lightly pruned before repotting. The top growth should be reduced to correspond with the root pruning. The surface of the pots of plants not being repotted should be scarified to remove moss and lighten the soil and then top-dressed with a good soil mixture. The dead bark should be picked off fuchsias and a malathion spray applied if mealy bugs are present. All old pots should be scrubbed clean and dipped in a very weak bluestone mixture to prevent growth of algae.

Begonia and gloxinia tubers being started into growth should be dusted with sulphur to combat mites, which have given considerable trouble in the last few years. Their starting media should be kept only slightly moist.

Seed of glasshouse plants such as begonia, streptocarpus, coleus, and gloxinia can now be sown.

General

Cyclamen flowers should be removed to prolong flowering. Cuttings of *Abutilon megapotamicum*, tradescantia, double lobelia, and coleus can be rooted for growing indoors.

Under cloches seed of asters can be sown direct into the ground. The plants grown this way are not so predisposed to the wilt fungus as those which are transplanted. Old plants of fibrous begonia can be broken up and planted out under cloches. These usually make taller plants than young seedlings.

Water lilies can now be lifted and divided if necessary.

Rose pruning should be finished immediately. The plants should be sprayed regularly against mildew, aphids, and caterpillars. A suitable combination spray can be made using

1 oz of 50 per cent captan or thiram
¾ oz of 75 per cent colloidal sulphur wettable powder
¾ oz of malathion powder
4 gallons of water

Many plants such as magnolias and rhododendrons can be layered now into the soil or into sphagnum moss in a polythene sleeve.

The dead and dying leaves of *Iris unguicularis* (stylosa) can be removed to tidy up the plants.

Hemerocallis will benefit from the addition of fertilisers and compost as growth starts.