

GARDENING NOTES

(By MR. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

FLOWER GARDEN.

The lawns should be mowed weekly during April, and rolling should not be neglected. Now is the time the roller will have an effect, as the grass grubs and worms are very much to the fore, and constant rolling will help to destroy them, and make the lawn firm, which prevents them from travelling and destroying the roots of the grass. I find that the grubs have been playing havoc with a good many lawns this season, especially where the soil is of a light sandy nature. Where there are bare patches on the lawn, the best plan is to sow them with plenty of seed, top dress, and thoroughly roll. Do not attempt to dig up the patches, as that process only makes it easier the next season for the grub to get in again. It is impossible to have a good lawn without using the roller frequently. The proper treatment for a lawn is regular mowing and rolling. When the grass grows profusely it should be always collected after mowing, but during the dry season it would be no harm to leave it on the lawn. Now is a good time to prepare and sow new lawns. The seed should not be less than four bushels to the acre. As the autumn is now fairly on us, leaves will be beginning to fall. They should be carefully gathered and carted away to the manure heap, as nothing is more suitable for the growth of flowers than their own leaves given back in the form of leaf mould. All the dead foliage of decaying plants, which have finished their season of growth, should also be cut down and taken to the manure heap. Many people rake up the leaves and burn them. That is a mistake. A lot of plants are now ripening their seeds, and these should be carefully picked and stored away until the proper time for sowing. The present is a good time to sow some of the hardy annuals and perennials to stand the winter in the flower borders. They must not be sown too thick. Sweet peas should be sown, and cuttings of geraniums and other plants should be put in as soon as possible. For geranium cuttings use good seasoned wood, not the soft succulent tops. Take the cuttings from the hardest looking plant in preference to those well grown. Put the cuttings in very sandy soil, and very little water is needed. All show and fancy pelargoniums growing in pots should be cut back, and the old plants, when they begin to sprout, should be repotted and placed in their winter quarters. The cuttings can be put in boxes. Geraniums growing out in the garden, which require to be taken up, should be lifted and repotted. The roots and shoots must be pruned back before being repotted. Keep planting all sorts of bulbs. Always plant in clumps, but give the bulbs plenty of room to grow. All lilies should be planted as soon as they are removed from the soil. They suffer when left out of the soil for any length of time, especially the large white lily (*Lilium candidum*). If any evergreen shrubs or ornamental trees have to be shifted, they ought to be dug around, and the roots pruned, and then left until the proper time for planting. If this is done they can be removed with much more safety, as the ball of earth will be firmer, and not liable to break away so easily. In the meantime the trench dug out must be filled in again. Chrysanthemums in pots should be constantly seen to, watered regularly, and fed with liquid manure as often as necessary—once or twice a week is not too much, as the soil in the pots will be pretty well exhausted by this time. They will also need disbudding, if good flowers are expected, and supported with neat stakes, according to the quantity of shoots left on the plants. On no account must they want for water, as they are gross feeders. If attacked by mildew shake flower of sulphur over the leaves.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

All vacant ground should be dug up roughly and left to sweeten until needed later on for planting. Gather tomatoes as they ripen. They may be picked before being ripe, and placed in a greenhouse or other warm place to ripen. If frost should happen to come unawares and destroy the plants, the fruit may be picked and put to ripen as above. By so doing, a good deal of fruit can be secured. Keep the ground well stirred up in the cabbage plot. Always plant cabbages in well manured ground, otherwise the crop will not be a success. They ought to have a liberal supply of liquid manure to make them grow quickly. If celery has not been moulded up it should be done so at once, as it must now have completed its growth. Onions should be pulled, dried, and stored away in a dry room where plenty of air can have free access. If there is only a small quantity, they are better strung, and hung up until needed. All early potatoes should be dug and stored away, and the seed selected, and placed in the sun to ripen. Great care should be taken in selecting the tubers for seed. A good crop cannot be expected from inferior seed. If the giant rocca onion has not been sown already, it should be done now for transplanting out in the spring. This is a very large soft onion, and is a very good wholesome vegetable, the flavor being very mild. It is not a keeping onion.

FRUIT GARDEN.

There is little to be done in this department except the picking and storing away of fruit as it ripens. Fruit must be picked very carefully, and not a speck or bruise should be on those stored away. It should be packed in proper cases, if for sale, and placed in a cool airy place, and if for the use of the house it should be placed on suitable shelves, where it can be frequently examined, and any showing decay can be used as required. Fruit should be picked before being dead ripe. If an apple or a pear, on being lifted upwards, breaks away easily from the branch, it is a sign that it is ready for picking, as it has completed its growth, and is now safer in the storeroom than on the tree.

OBITUARY

MRS. I. WOOLF, RIVERTON.

It was with deep regret that the congregation of the parish of Riverton received the news on Friday, March 24, of the demise of Mrs. Woolf, one of their most active workers in every movement for the religious and social welfare of the Church in their midst. She was an ardent member of the Catholic Federation, and a considerable amount of the success of the Pan-Southland Federation's inaugural demonstration was due to her organising ability. Deceased was a native of County Cork, and came out to New Zealand in the ship Hurunui in 1877, settling in Riverton some 30 years ago, where she was married. She leaves a husband and daughter to mourn their loss. During her illness she was attended by the Rev. Father Murphy, and died fortified with the rites of the Church. On Sunday Father Murphy made feeling reference to the deceased, who had been such a valued supporter of the Church.—R.I.P.

It was the steamer Hesperus
That sailed the wintry sea,
But the skipper bold had an awful cold,
And was sad as sad could be.
But his daughter fair, with the golden hair,
Said, 'Father, no words could be truer;
No cure on earth has half the worth
Of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.'

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