

GARDENS AND GARDENING

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PRUNING THE ROSES

For bedding purposes, the pegging down method—that is attaching a piece of twine to the end of the shoot and fastening it to a peg in the ground, thus forming a miniature arch—may be used with very good results with strong growing varieties such as Frau Karl Druschki, Hugh Dickson, Margaret Dickson, etc. These also form excellent pillar roses if pruned against strong stakes six or seven feet high, and lightly pruned.

The varieties represented by Ulrich Brunner and Mrs. John Laing may be allowed to grow into bushes or they may be pruned hard this month. It all depends whether you want plenty of blooms of moderate quality or few blooms of good quality. To obtain the latter, the shoots should be shortened to lengths varying from seven or eight inches for the strongest to about three inches for the less strong canes cutting out of course, all really weak shoots.

For decorative purposes Tea Roses may, if they have been well fertilized, be pruned a little, just sufficient to keep them from presenting a scraggly appearance. For exhibition purposes the Tea Roses may be pruned practically as hard as the Hybrid Perpetuals; there is no danger that these free flowering and attractive roses will not bloom.

Sweet Briars, Austrian Briars and in fact all single roses should not be pruned at all except for cutting out all the dead or dying wood.

Gloire de Dijon, Marechal Niel or practically any of their race as a rule make long strong flowerless shoots in the late summer. These shoots should be retained to almost their full length, for the finest blooms. The shoots should be trained to as near a horizontal position as it is possible without blending them too much.

T.W.H. writes: My house is one of a terrace facing south-east on high ground facing the sea. In front is a stiff bank, the soil of which is shallow. Nothing has grown there yet but weeds. Could you recommend or suggest an economical way of laying it out? It is too stiff for grass as I could not use a mower. I have thought of dwarf shrubs or Ice Plant.

Answer: You could cover your bank effectively, and at the same time make it so that it could be easily kept at little or no after cost, by planting groups of various free growing shrubs such as Broom Kewenses, Heathers in variety, Lavender, Heath-anthemums, Cotoneaster Horizontalis, the new red leaved Barberis, etc. Plant large irregular shaped masses of each in such a manner that the different sorts of things run into the other in a natural manner. Such a method of planting forms one of the very best kinds of wild gardening, for an ugly bank can be made effective during the whole of the year, and gives exceeding-

ly little trouble when the plants are once established. You could of course use Ice Plants, but the other things would have the best appearance. If you desire it a few flowering trees could be introduced.

B. W. writes Would you please tell me what I can do with a lawn which has been so neglected that the greater part consists of Plantains. To root them up looks like an endless task.

Answer: The best and most economical method of restoring a lawn is to feed it every autumn or spring time. Turf requires a food like all other kinds of plant. Use well rotted manure mixed with loam or soil, and give the turf a dressing of two pounds to the square yard. Leave the dressing to be washed in by the rains. Plantains can be removed by sulphuric acid, 1 drop to the crown of each weed; but as it is destructive of other vegetable matter it must be confined to a bottle, allowing only one drop to escape.

NOTE—The writer will consider it a pleasure to answer questions concerning the garden in this column.

The questions should be addressed to the writer in care of the Editor. The answer will appear in an early issue or if a personal reply is desired a stamped, self-addressed envelope should be enclosed.

British Columbia Bulbs

Hitherto the world's bulb market has been controlled by a few European countries, but now, according to the superintendent of the Sidney, B. C., Experimental Station, this European supremacy in the bulb market is being threatened by the appearance of diseases difficult to control. In fact, of 7,000,000 bulbs shipped from Europe to Canada last year, a third were rejected on account of disease. Research work at the Sidney station has proved conclusively that Vancouver Island can produce healthier bulbs of better quality than any of the European products. Bulbs have been sent out from the station to every federal experimental farm in Canada, and in almost every case they have proved superior in every way to the best that Europe can produce. This opens up the prospect of a new industry on Vancouver Island. The demand for lily bulbs in England and the United States is very great. Considerable progress has been made at the Sidney station in experimental work with bulb diseases. An account of this work is given in the latest report of the superintendent, available at the Publication Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

FERTILIZERS

The Vernon Feed Store, next to the theatre on Marine Drive, have a good supply of different kinds of fertilizers in stock. Those wishing to improve the productiveness of their garden should see Mr. Searle as to the kind best suited to their needs.

Fruit Trees

British Columbia Nurseries

Growers of Fruit Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Ornamentals, Etc.



We have a fine selection of first class FRUIT TREES suitable for the North Shore at our West Vancouver Nurseries. Come and look them over.

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B.C. MUSICAL FESTIVAL 1928

Mr. J. Peebles Conn

Seldom has an adjudicator of finer attainments for his task visited Vancouver than Mr. J. Peebles Conn, who will be one of the three adjudicators at the B. C. Musical Festival, May 7th to 12th, inclusive.

Exceptionally well known in the British Isles and Europe for his work and interest in orchestral matters, he is singularly gifted with a freshness of outlook which has drawn attention to him wherever he has appeared at the conductor's desk.

In addition to his work with the Glasgow, Greenock and Dunfermline Amateur Orchestras, of which he is conductor, Mr. Conn is also professor of the violin at the Glasgow Athenaeum. He is also the late leader and assistant conductor of the Municipal Orchestras at Dortmund and Bielefeld, Germany, and ex-Bucher Scholar and a diploma pupil of Sevcik (Prague) and Hess and Eldering, Cologne.

No other testimony than the above is required, and we can look forward to the visit of Mr. Conn as one of the most interesting phases of the Festival.

Correspondence

Editor West Van News:

I think what has escaped the notice of our board of works, is the unsightly and clumsy corner on 25th Street corner of Bellevue, opposite or angleways from Hall's grocery. I so scratched up my good shoes on those cobblestones that I have to go on the street instead of passing on to the sidewalk.

This is surely a small thing to ask to have improved for the benefit of all. I am seriously thinking of asking for a pair of new shoes.

Yours for West Van.,
M. BULKLEY.

Dr. Stainsby in Chicago.

Mrs. F. Stainsby, with her children spent last week end with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Gemmill at their home at 15th and Esquimalt. Dr. Stainsby is now in Chicago doing post graduate work after having spent some time at Rochester. Whilst the Doctor is in the East Mrs. Stainsby and her family are staying with the children's grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stainsby, Third Avenue, Kitsilano.

New Lending Library Started.

The Lesage Drug Store is starting a public lending library with a flat rate of two cents a day for books. George Reid, the store manager, states that this is being run exactly on the same lines as are the book lending departments of the large Vancouver stores. They have on exhibit in their store a hundred volumes of new fiction as the nucleus of the library.

Classic Millinery Store

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We have just received a fine display of New Spring Dresses for Street and Afternoon wear. Come and see the display.

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WEST VANCOUVER HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

A Military Whist Drive

Will be held in AMBLESIDE HALL, at 8.30 P. M.

Good Prizes and Refreshments.

Tickets 50c.

This will be preceded by a

LECTURE ON "GARDENS" by PROFESSOR BUCK.

which starts at 8. P. M.



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CEDAR

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