

hedge-plants are of a bright lively green. The one most used is *Myrica faya*, a native plant, which grows very abundantly on all the uplands, and seems to be regarded as a kind of badge in the islands, as its relation *Myrica gale* is in the West Highlands of Scotland. Two other native plants, *Laurus Canariensis* and *Persea Indica*, are sometimes employed, but they are supposed to affect the soil prejudicially. Of late years a very elegant Japanese shrub, *Pittosporum undulatum*, which was originally introduced from England, has become widely used as a shelter-plant; and an allied species, *Pittosporum tobira*, is found to thrive well in quintas exposed to the sea-breeze.

It is needless to say that the culture of the orange is the main industry of San Miguel, and that the wonderful perfection at which this delicious fruit arrives has been sufficient to give the island an advantage over places less remote, and to insure a reasonable amount of wealth to the owners of the ground. The cultivation of the orange is simple and inexpensive. The soil formed by the wearing-down of the volcanic rocks is, as a rule, originally rich. It is inclosed and worked for a year or two, and young plants of good varieties, from layers or grafts, are planted at distances of eight or ten yards. Strong plants from layers begin to fruit in two or three years. They come into full bearing in from eight to ten years, when each tree should produce about fifteen hundred oranges. The orange-trees are lightly pruned, little more than the harsh spiny shoots being removed. The surface of the ground is kept clean and tidy with a hoe, and it is manured yearly, or at longer intervals, by a method introduced in old times into Britain by the Romans: lupins, which send up a rapid and luxuriant growth, and produce a large quantity of highly nitrogenous seed in the rich new soil, are sown thickly among the trees, and then the whole—straw, pods, and seeds—are dug into the ground. This seems to be sufficient to mellow the soil, and any other manure is rarely used for this crop.