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& HOW TO MAKE
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Little gardens and how to make the most



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THE TUFTED SAXIFRAGE FORMS A BEAUTIFUL AND PERMANENT
EDGING TO THE GARDEN PATH.

LITTLE GARDENS

AND

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEM

BY

H. H. THOMAS

*Editor of "The Gardener," Author of "Gardening in Town
and Suburb"*

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS



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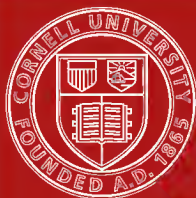
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PREFACE

THE world and his wife are gardeners nowadays. It is safe to conclude that most people have to be content with little gardens, and since these are notoriously more difficult to manage satisfactorily than large ones, I may be pardoned for believing that I have a good excuse for the publication of this volume. **LITTLE GARDENS** aims at giving concise and practical counsel on laying out a small garden and generally turning it to the best advantage. This may seem an impossible task within one hundred and fifty pages, but I believe the work loses nothing in being concise. Was I disposed to expatiate upon the delights that are within reach of the flower lover, or to elaborate an explanation of some practical work beyond the necessary limits? Then at once I was confronted with the list of subjects still not touched upon, and compelled, willy nilly, to confine my remarks strictly to essential information and to express this as briefly as possible. For the exposition of my views I have relied to some extent upon illustrations, for often it happens that a picture will tell a story better than a page of letterpress can do, and when pages are strictly limited, obviously this is a question worth consideration. One can make the most of a little garden only by choosing suitable plants and giving each the treatment best suited to its needs. **LITTLE GARDENS** weeds the good from the bad, and endeavours to show how the good may be made to give of their best.

H. H. T.

September, 1908.



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LITTLE GARDENS

CHAPTER I

On Making a Garden—Plans for Little Gardens—Rustic Arches—Log Ornaments—Garden Seats and Arbours.

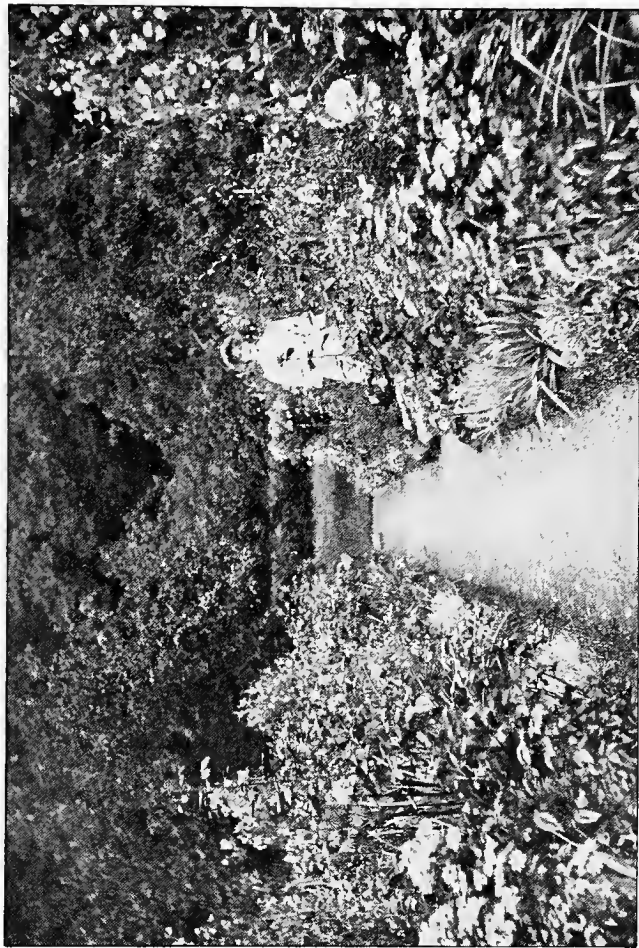
MAKING a garden may be likened to painting a picture. Just as the artist has before him the landscape which he is to depict on the canvas, so the gardener should have in his mind's eye a strong impression of the kind of garden he wishes to make. There is nothing like being methodical, even in gardening, so it is best to materialise one's ideas in the form of a rough sketch or plan. Then it is easier to judge whether the proposed design is suitable to the plot of ground to be laid out, and improvements suggest themselves more readily when one's thoughts are set out in black and white. In the making of a little garden it is best, I think, not to follow any set design too closely. If a plan is drawn to scale and carried strictly into execution, then one misses much of the delight of garden making, and the garden itself is apt to suffer. There should be as much pleasure in the execution as in the realisation of the scheme, yet this is only possible when fresh ideas, which are bound to come as the work proceeds, are allowed to have free play, even to the extent of interfering with the original design. Ideas which arise on the spur of the moment are often invaluable and are not to be lightly regarded; if carried out, more often than not they make that indefinable yet most important difference between a garden set out by rod and line and one that has been allowed, as it were, to have its own say in the matter. There will be a grace and charm in the latter that will be found wanting in the former. It is well to be original, although even originality must not be allowed to override commonsense, or the result may be a collection of paths and beds, borders and lawns, that has no just claim to be called a garden.

Position of the Garden.—The first and most important consideration of all is the position of the garden in relation to the house, for it should not be forgotten that, after all, the garden is but an adjunct to the house. It is best, I think, unless local conditions

render it impossible or inconvenient, to have the lawn or plot of grass (by whichever title the size of the green may entitle it to be called) near the house, for one must not lose sight of the uses to which the grass may be put during the summer months. From the gardener's point of view, its chief purpose should be to provide a cool, neat plot of green among flowers of gaudy colouring, that it may accentuate the brilliance of these and, incidentally, thereby gain in attractiveness itself. However, the lawn is valuable to the lady of the house from a far more prosaic point of view, and on its proximity to the dwelling its usefulness in this direction will largely depend. There is no gainsaying the fact that a garden, however small it may be, is made additionally attractive by the possession of a little lawn, provided—and its worth hinges entirely upon this—that it is neat and well kept. An unkempt, untidy lawn detracts from, rather than adds to, the beauty of a garden, and, naturally, the smaller the latter the more obtrusive is the ill-kept lawn. But it is not a difficult matter to make a lawn and keep it in good condition, as may be gathered from the instruction in a later chapter, although it is work that needs care.

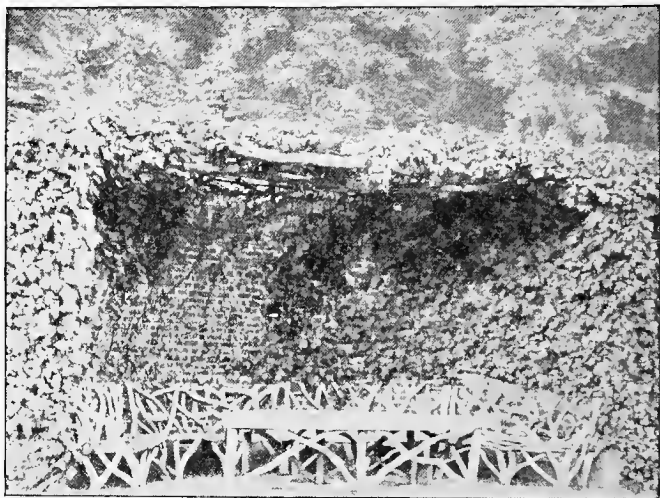
General Remarks on Design.—Personally, I much prefer to see a small plot of grass, with beds and borders at the side, than one broken up here and there by little beds of various shapes and sizes. Although suitable planting hides their defects to some extent, small beds of fantastic design have a paltry look, and in a little garden they are bound to exercise an influence on the whole aspect, an influence that tends rather to accentuate the smallness of the garden. Now, of course, this is just what one does not wish to do: the garden-maker should work with an exactly opposite purpose. It may seem affected to write of broad effects being obtainable in tiny gardens, but, at any rate, it is possible by careful planning and planting to render the narrow limits less obtrusive. The chief means to this end is to hide all the fences and walls—any object, in fact, that indicates exactly where any part of the garden begins or ends.

Covering the Walls and Fences.—When the garden is quite small this may be done easily by covering the walls and fences with Ivy, with Jessamine, Roses, Clematis, and Virginian Creeper, but preferably with Ivy, because this provides a warm green covering for the bare boards or bricks the whole year round. If the garden does not come in the category of those that are quite small, then by a tasteful arrangement of rustic trelliswork (to be covered with climbing plants), or by planting groups of shrubs wherever they may be needed, the actual size of the garden may be hidden from view. It is a good plan to imagine a friend coming into one's garden for the first time and to think what his impressions would be. Would the boundary fences strike him at once as being bare and obtrusive, defining the exact limits of the garden? Then either drape them with evergreens or, if space allows, hide them with



HARDY FLOWERS IN A LITTLE YORKSHIRE GARDEN.

carefully placed groups of plants. It always seems to me that dealing with the boundaries of a small garden is something like papering the walls of a room. Before these are covered they repel by their bareness and by the distinctness with which they define the extent of the room. Thus it is best, especially if the room be small, to choose a paper of some warmth and depth of tone, so that when the room is papered there is no hard, definite "face" to the walls, but a "softness" that produces exactly the opposite effect. And so it is with the garden fences. Cover them with warm-toned leaves, and



AN IVY COVERED ARBOUR.

there will be no sharp, defining lines round the garden, with the result that the latter will apparently gain in extent.

Straight versus Curving Walks.—The question as to whether paths, beds and borders with curving outline, or those with straight edges, are more appropriate in a small garden is one upon which experts often disagree, and appears to be determinable by oneself only for oneself. Curving walks appeal irresistibly to some, no matter where or how they are placed—a straight walk is an eyesore and will not be tolerated. But it may be well to point out that a curving walk is not necessarily a graceful walk: in fact, very often there is far more charm in a straight than in a curving path when the garden is small. At least, I venture to express this



AN IDEAL GARDEN WALK—CURVING GRACEFULLY AND BORDERED WITH BLOSSOM.

opinion. The great drawback to a curving walk in a small garden is that it is apt to become a wriggling walk, and then surely no one would be bold enough to call it graceful. Of all things to be avoided in the little garden is the wriggling walk—it wriggles in and wriggles out, never quite sure which way to turn, and finally, having covered and wasted a lot of valuable ground, comes to a full stop in front of its destination with a self-satisfied air that must surely disgust all right-minded gardeners. Once a walk begins to wriggle it is foredoomed to become an eyesore, and nothing can save it. Therefore, unless you are quite sure where a graceful curve ends and a wriggle begins, I would advise you to leave curving walks to those who know how to deal with them and to keep strictly to walks that are straight.

To Avoid Wriggling Walks.—The best recipe I know for the prevention of a wriggling path is, first, to make up one's mind as to the exact point it has to reach and then to know exactly where it is to start. With these two points definitely settled, it should not prove a very difficult matter to make a curving walk which has grace yet does not wriggle. I freely admit that a curving walk which is graceful has more charm than a straight one, although the latter is unapproachable for dignity and quiet effect. But how many curving walks one sees that are not graceful! More often than not I think the reason of this might be traced to the fact that the walk got the better of the designer, who could have had no clear idea of the kind of curve he intended it to take. Then, naturally, the walk got out of hand.

PLANS FOR LITTLE GARDENS

It is wonderful what different results can be obtained with plots of similar size and shape. For while one person will lay it out in rows like a market garden, a second will devote nearly all to turf, and a third will cultivate fruit, flowers, and vegetables in the happiest association.

The old fashioned method of laying out a long garden is shown by Fig. 1. Of course there are still many who prefer this style, but doubtless most will agree that the straightness of all the lines gives a monotonous, hard effect of which the eye soon wearies. If this plan be compared with Figs. 2 and 3 it will be apparent at once that straight lines dwarf the appearance of the whole, while circular lines tend to make it seem larger. Fig. 3, by its meandering path, seems to increase the space even more than do the curves of Fig. 2, and what is suggested in a sketch like this proves far more noticeable in the planted garden. A Laurel hedge between lawn and vegetable garden may be found in many gardens, and nothing could be a worse error in planning. Except when looking down the side walks it appears as though the garden ended in that evergreen barrier; no pretty vistas are offered such as add so considerably to the charm of the little pleasure garden.

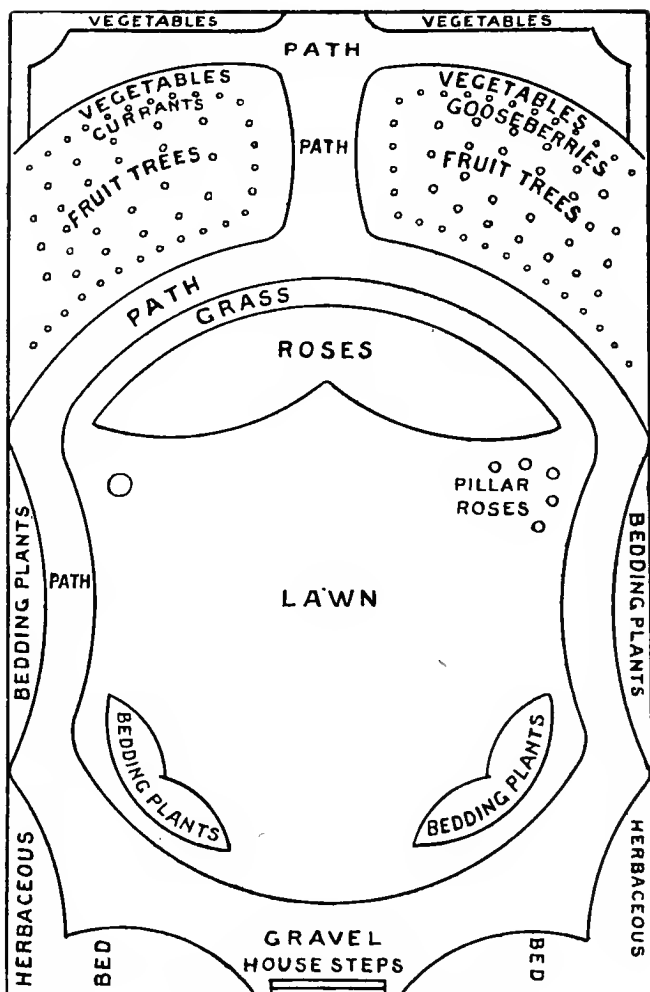


FIG. 2.—AN ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

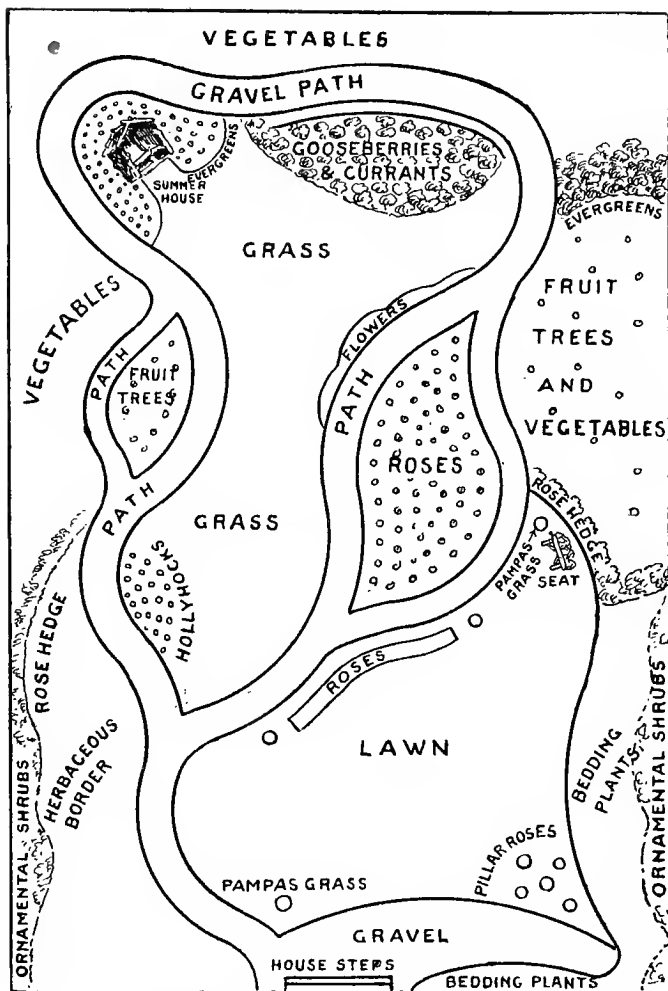


FIG. 3.—AN IRREGULAR GARDEN PLAN.

An ornamental design is shown by Fig. 2; the lawn looks especially well, while the curves in the borders and herbaceous beds allow one to bring forward bold groups of certain plants, thus giving shelter for less vigorous kinds between them. The fruit and vegetable ground is so arranged that it will not be too noticeable from the lawn, except as an orchard of fruit trees seen above the rosery. Arches are not shown in any of the plans, as the sites for these can be determined so easily by individual taste. In Fig. 2, however, a charming effect may be obtained by making a pergola or series of Rose arches along the semicircular path between the kitchen garden and lawn, for this gives a screen without forming a close barrier to the view.

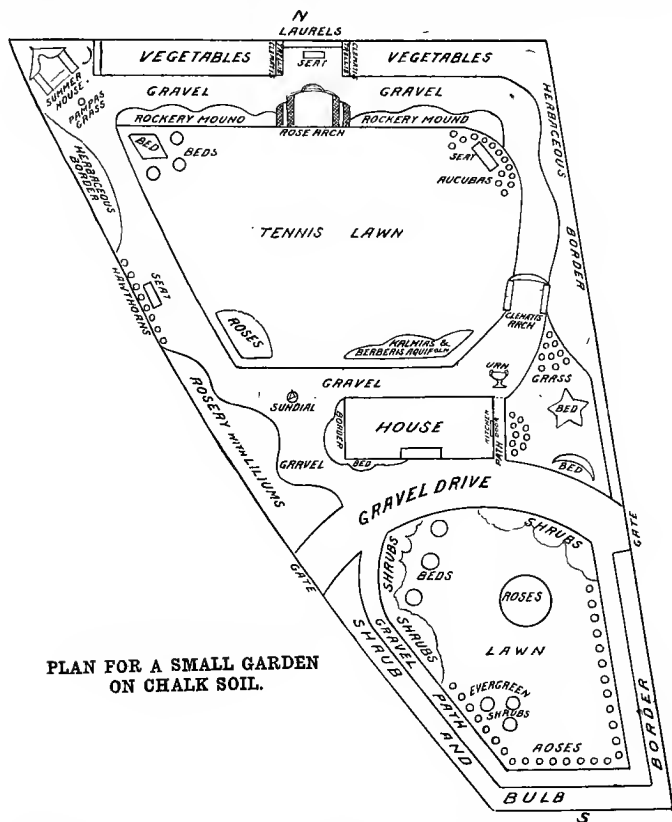
The irregular garden plan shown by Fig. 3 will appeal, I think, to the fancy of fewer gardeners, yet it has many good points. It gives the charm of mystery to many a walk and nook, while at the same time increasing the number of aspects, and therefore of possibilities. There is a substantial summerhouse in an ever-green sheltered corner, which would prove useful also as a winter retreat if it could face south or south-west.

Safe Rules for Laying out Walks.—Allow for approach to every bit of cultivated ground; give sufficient scope for pleasant pedestrian exercise, create as many new views as possible by turns and branches, yet avoid sacrificing ground unnecessarily. In Fig. 3 it will be seen that there is no path on one side of the lawn, as the flower border can be reached by the turf, and the flowers will look their best against it. A considerable amount of vegetable garden is allowed for, and there is a good rosery. One should always make new walks wide enough for comfort in walking, say a minimum width of 3 feet unless the garden is very small. Fig. 2 would prove more suitable than Fig. 1 for quite a small piece of ground, perhaps, but Fig. 3 could be simplified by making only one lawn and turning the distant grass into kitchen garden.

A Small Garden on Chalk Soil.—The accompanying plan will be found a simple one for a garden not quite 1 acre in extent. The shrubs may include Lilacs, Philadelphuses, all varieties of Berberis, Box, Euonymus, Ribes, Viburnums of different sorts, Broom, Gorse, Hollies, Flowering Cherries, and Crabs. If trees are desired Aspens will thrive on a chalk soil, and the Mountain Ash is generally successful. Herbaceous plants may include Poppies of all sorts, Wallflowers, Centaureas, Chrysanthemum maximum, Michaelmas Daisies, Chrysanthemums, Polyanthuses, Primroses, Coreopses, German, English, and Florentine Irises; Rudbeckias, Sunflowers, Arabis, Aubrietias, Carnations, and Pansies. Phloxes should be avoided.

For climbers, the usual Clematisses will probably succeed, also Honeysuckles, Jasmines, and Pyrus Japonica, Ivies, and Ampelopsis. Sometimes the pink and white Rambler Roses flourish, but Crimson Rambler seldom does, except when given a prepared depth of loamy

soil. Bush Roses will do better than standards in the beds; the less robust growers should be chosen, and protection should be given to the roots and lower stems during winter. Rugosa and China Roses

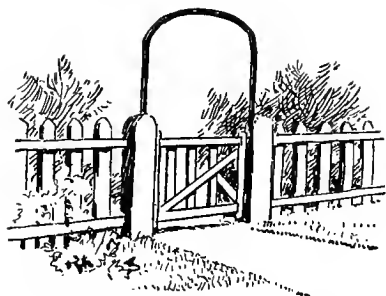


PLAN FOR A SMALL GARDEN ON CHALK SOIL.

will flourish. The rockery mounds will enable most Alpines, etc., to be cultivated.

RUSTIC ARCHES

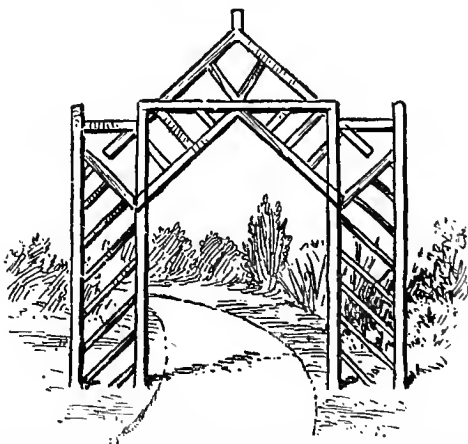
There are two chief facts to bear in mind with regard to placing arches in the garden. Firstly, they should be in keeping with the style of the house or grounds; secondly, they should not be monotonous in effect. A white stone house, with a light pillared



AN ARCHED-OVER COTTAGE GARDEN GATE.

verandah, is not suited by rustic arches; it requires to be seen through vistas made up of arches as slender as the verandah pillars, of painted ironwork preferably, and the most telling contrast will be arranged if there are numerous deep green evergreen shrubs.

Rustic or peeled Oak arches suit the modern red brick villa style of house to perfection; the trellis arch, being neat and unpretentious, is also in excellent taste. The old fashioned country cottage, or the house built to imitate it, should not have trelliswork within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile; rustic arches, or invisible ones of bent iron, are alone



A USEFUL ARCH, EASILY MADE AND APPROPRIATE IN MANY SMALL GARDENS.

in keeping. By an invisible arch I mean one consisting of a single bend of iron, or narrow woodwork uprights with a cross bar—anything really that is intended only to support some evergreen climber or close grower such as a Rose, that will hide the foundation at all seasons.

Arches simply built of rustic poles are more pleasing than wire or lattice ones in any landscape, and the roughness of the wood is beneficial to the climbers that grow over them, affording an easy hold for tendrils. Whether the wood is peeled, or employed with the bark on—the latter is the more artistic method—it is an admirable plan to wash it all over with a strong solution of some insecticide, and then give one or two coats of varnish. In most cases varnish alone is enough to preserve the wood.

A double arch will span a very wide path better than a single arch can do, and no matter what centre climbers are required they can be planted at the foot of the middle poles, and the path be then made up afresh right to their stems, as gravel on the surface will not do them any injury. On p. 17 is shown a simple kind of double arch, made out of nine lengths of log, some narrower than the others, nailed together. Double arches are useful, too, to span two walks that meet at a sharp angle, but the sides of the arch must then be slightly slanted. A double arch forms a good ornament to a lawn end where an exit of grass is left between border beds.

A painted wooden arch need not be always a trellis one, for that is a style with which the eye is certainly often wearied. On p. 12 is shown an easy form to build in deal, though it serves equally well in peeled Oak, in which case the natural curves of the wood will make the pattern between the supports irregular, not in straight bars, but this will not matter. Any carpenter should copy this simple arch, and at small expense. The whole should be painted dull dark green or brown when finished.

An arched-over cottage gate is shown on p. 12. It is, unfortunately, rare to find gates and entrances canopied by charming climbers, yet the work of erection is simplicity itself. In many cases the supports for the arch can be nailed to fence or wall posts, or when an iron hoop is preferred, as shown in the illustration, it is placed touching the posts, either behind or before. It must be well driven into the ground, and attached to the posts by sockets of iron or other metal, to prevent any damage by shaking in gale times. Ivy is perhaps prettiest of all climbers over a cottage gateway, but Japanese Honeysuckle, or Hops, White Jasmine, Clematis montana, C. Vitalba, the beautiful Traveller's Joy, are also admirable. A combination of beauty, interest, and usefulness would result from planting the Japanese Wineberry or the Loganberry as a climber, but it would not be safe to do so against any public path or lane, as the fruit would prove too tempting to passers by. The ordinary villa gateway could have a wooden arch, either in the style of the top

portion of the arch in Fig. 2, or of the ubiquitous close latticework, and the small leaved Virginian creeper would look well over it.

A Wall Arch.—Wherever boundary walls exist between park and garden, or between kitchen and flower gardens, the openings in them ought to be made serviceable as spots for growing climbers. If the boundary has to be enclosed altogether iron gates within the

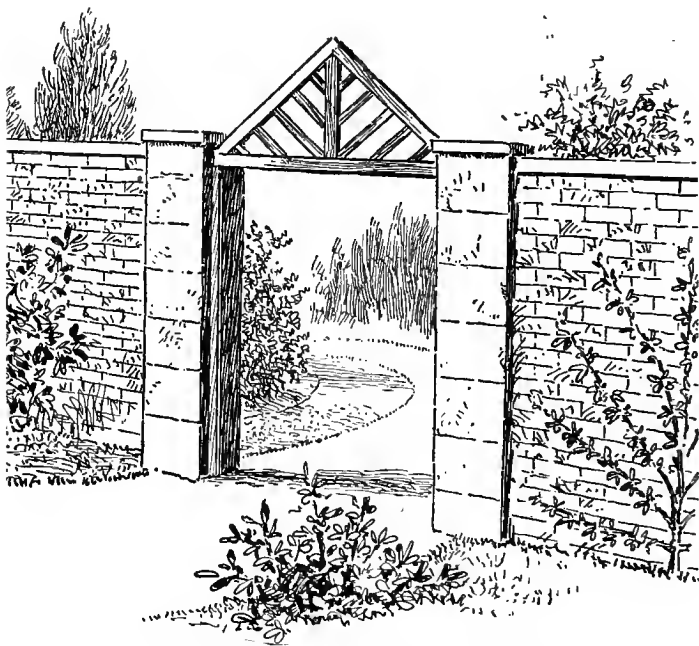


FIG. 3.—ARCH SUITABLE FOR GARDEN DOORWAY.

arch would meet the need, and look far better than the close wooden gates as high as the walls that too frequently separate stable yard or farm yard from the garden. If necessary, the iron gates could reach to the wall level, but often low gates would be sufficient, if persons, and not poultry, are to be kept out. The arch of wood in Fig. 3, being peaked shape, looks especially graceful when well climbed by a William Allen Richardson Rose or purple Clematis Jackmanii.

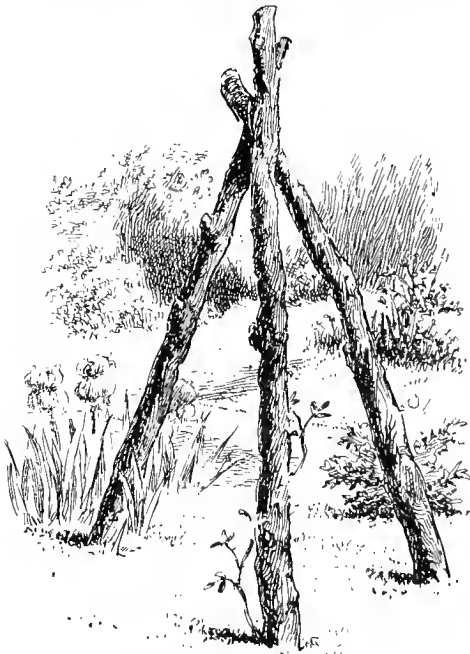


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LOG ORNAMENTS

The use of rustic wood in a garden is always safe, since its appearance cannot conflict with Nature as painted woodwork, when present in excess, is sure to do. From woodcutters' yards, especially those in the heart of the country, charming pieces of log, of any size, can

be bought very cheaply, while whenever a tree on an estate has to be felled, portions of its trunk or branches can be turned to good account in the garden.



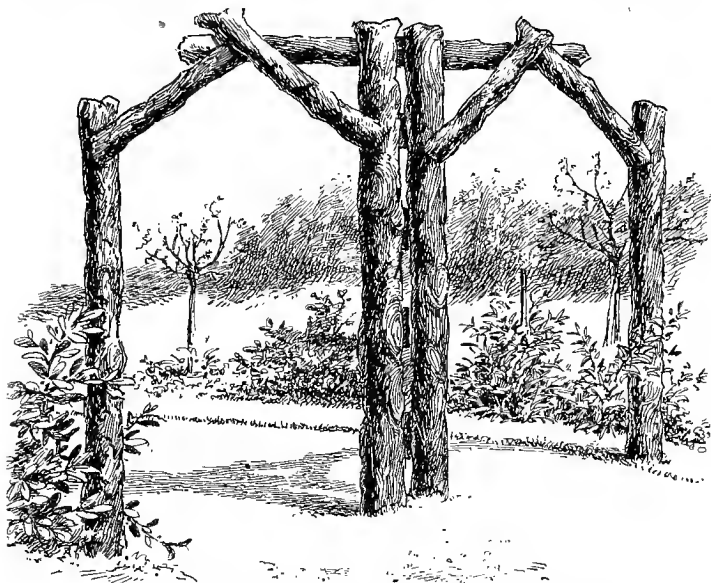
A SUPPORT FOR LOW CLIMBERS.

A support for low climbers, that could not interfere with the beauty of any scene in the pleasure grounds, can be made of three logs set together, and nailed towards their tops, as shown in the illustration. Such an erection, on a lawn I know, made a delightful summer and autumn feature when well climbed by *Cobaea scandens*, that large purple Bell Flower which has such graceful

leaves, and blossoms so continuously. In a cold garden corner this support might be tried for *Tropaeolum speciosum*, the Flame Flower, of glowing vermillion, which will not thrive everywhere, and dislikes heat, but is so grand a climber where it does luxuriate. By tying a few pieces of green string half way up each pole to small nails knocked here and there in the wood, and securing each string to a peg of wood in the soil some few inches from the base, the structure could be used for Sweet Peas or climbing Nasturtiums.

A simple rustic vase can be made of a short length of a tree trunk, hollowed out, either wholly or for only 1 foot or 2 feet, turned

on end, filled up with soil, and planted with ferns or flowers. If a few round holes are bored in the sides, just where the lowest soil and the drainage crocks or pebbles are, water will run out and so not rot the wood. If handles are desired to the vase they can be made of small curled pieces of branch nailed to the sides. When a log is entirely hollowed out there is no difficulty about drainage, as



A SIMPLE FORM OF DOUBLE ARCH MADE FROM LOGS.

if a few inches of stones are put in first undue moisture will trickle through into the earth beneath. These rustic urns, as shown on p. 18, make very pretty ornaments for the corners of lawns.

SEATS AND ARBOURS

No shelter should be permitted to exist which is not also a pretty garden feature. A simple hot weather screen can be constructed altogether of close trelliswork, as shown on p. 19; it is admirable as affording privacy in overlooked gardens, for the poles are so near together, and the criss-cross wood is so wide in lath, that a fair screen is gained even before climbers have covered it. No roofing is shown in the sketch, for Rose branches stretched across give all the protection necessary, or a Hop will make a good ceiling by the

time its luxuriant growth is trained across and across on tarred strings. Of course, some plain bars, latticed between as those of the sides, could be arranged to roof in a portion, or even the whole, of this shelter, and Ivy could be permanently trained over



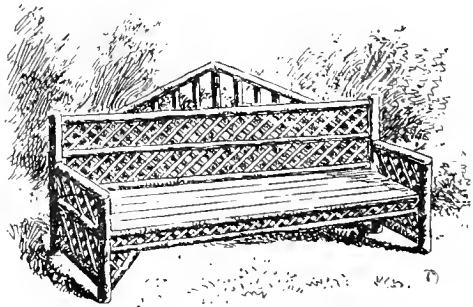
A RUSTIC VASE.

all. Rambler Roses clothe this arbour charmingly, but are best accompanied by a Gloire de Dijon or Rêve d'Or, to supply bloom when the Rambler's glory is over. Two or three coats of paint must be applied to the woodwork; dark green is generally employed, but cigar brown has a satisfactory rustic appearance, while I have seen a pretty effect gained by using white paint to show up the rich hues of Crimson Rambler.

A substantial

Shelter for Summer or Winter

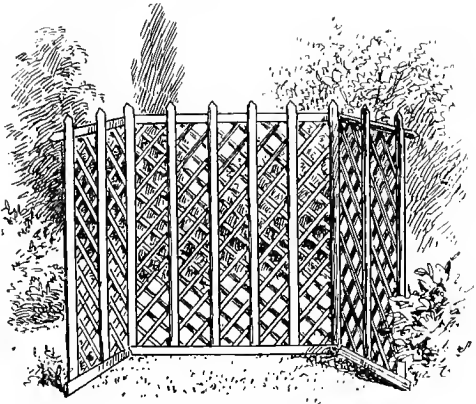
is shown on p. 19, its merits being durability, real usefulness, and cheapness of construction. Deal planks form the sides and back, the roof is tiled, or can be thatched with straw, Gorse, Bracken Fern, or Heather if preferred. The most serviceable and driest flooring is one of pebbles set in cement, but if the shelter stood on gravel a flooring could be dispensed with; another plan is to floor with concrete or bricks set as a pavement; every one should be arranged to slope slightly from the back of the building to the front, to allow moisture to drain away. Windows can be added if desired; but it



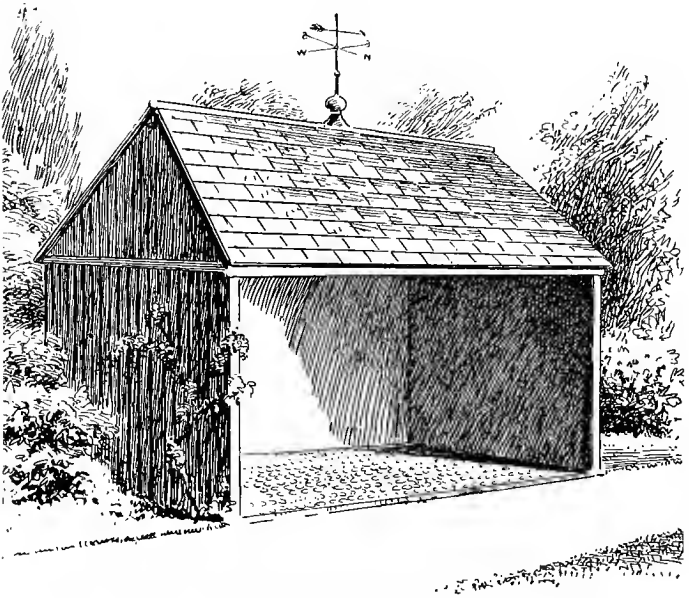
A TRELLIS GARDEN SEAT.

must be remembered that windows add considerably to the work, and therefore to the cost of construction. A lavish supply of climbers will be needed for a large shelter, so it is well to have some of more solid growth than others; *Pyrus Japonica* and the beautiful

Fire Thorn (*Craetaegus Pyracantha*) would be excellent ornaments for the warm and cold aspects respectively, while Passion Flowers and Clematises added in May, when frosts are over, would climb over these to the highest parts of the shelter.



AN INEXPENSIVE SCREEN OF TRELLISWORK.



A GARDEN SHELTER SUITABLE FOR WINTER OR SUMMER.

CHAPTER II

Making Paths—Edgings to Lawns and Walks—Making a Lawn—Lawns from Turf and Seed—Preparing Ground—Planting—Best Time to Plant—Planting Bulbs—What to Plant in Spring—Plants for Shady, Sunny, and Dusty Gardens—How to make a Small Rockery.

Making Paths.—The most important item in making paths and walks is to have a good foundation and thorough drainage, so that even in wet weather the surface may remain comparatively dry. Where it is intended to make the path the soil is dug out about 1 foot deep. Even if this be heavy, clayey stuff, it may be spread about on beds and borders. After a few months' exposure to the various natural agencies, sun, air, rain, frost, etc., it will become fairly friable, and can be dug in the border. It is best to do this work in the autumn, as by springtime the excavated soil will be in a fit condition to dig into the various beds; for light, sandy, or gravelly soil it is particularly good. In small gardens there is often a difficulty in getting rid of such material, and unless it is carted away altogether the only thing to do is to spread it on the borders. The foundation of the path consists of broken bricks; a good layer of these is placed over the bottom of the trench, about half filling the latter. Then come clinkers, smaller pieces of brick and stones, filling say another 3 inches, and on top of these is placed the gravel. As each layer of material is put in it is made firm by ramming, and the second layer should be well rolled also. The surface of the walk should be highest in the centre, with a curving outline so that water may drain away to the sides, leaving the gravel fairly dry even in winter. It is only by frequent rolling, especially for some time soon after its completion, that a path can be made to have a firm surface.

Gravel and Asphalt Paths.—There is nothing uglier than an asphalt path in a garden; it certainly cannot be its attractiveness that commends it to those who patronise this form of walk. Asphalt paths detract from the beauty of a garden, especially a little garden; flowers never look their best in such company. Moreover, they are rather expensive. Still, they have one great recommendation—they are always clean and dry; they can be swept very easily, require no rolling, and may be used with comfort even in the depth of winter. The surface is hard, and, unlike that of a gravel path, never becomes sticky. By frequent rolling after rain, however, the surface

of a gravel path can be made comparatively hard. Asphalt paths have certain advantages over those of gravel, but the latter look far better in a garden.

Grass Paths.—There is no pleasanter path than that of grass, and even the small garden ought to have a little grass walk between the flower borders and Rose beds. It adds immensely to the attractiveness of the garden, and none other is so pleasant to the tread. Constant mowing and rolling are necessary and the edges must be kept neat and trim, for while a well kept grass path is most attractive of all, its charm is never fully realised unless it is carefully attended to.

Paved Paths.—Paths made with bricks or flat stones are usually seen only in large establishments where the paved garden is a feature quite by itself. Yet there are many positions in little gardens that might have paved paths bordered by rough stones, over which Thrift, Rock Cress, and some of the commoner Rockfoils (such as *Saxifraga caespitosa*) would tumble in profusion. The great charm of a paved path is that little plants can be grown in among the crevices, since the bricks and stones are placed directly on the soil, and interstices can be left between them for the reception of seeds and tiny plants. One of the best and easiest to grow of plants suitable for paved pathways is the Violet Cress (*Ionopsidium acaule*), a hardy annual that bears light purplish flowers throughout a long period. When once established it sows itself year after year. The Balearic Sandwort (*Antennaria Balearica*) covers the stones with a close fitting carpet of green that is almost lost beneath a mass of tiny white blossoms in early summer. Then there is the fragrant leaved Thyme; this, too, may be planted among the crevices of the stones; it gives a sweet odour as it is crushed by the foot.

Paths of Heather.—These are perhaps scarcely to be recommended for quite little gardens, yet they form such a delightful feature in some places that it would seem a pity not to mention them. They need a light and sandy soil to prove really successful, and when these conditions can be counted upon Heather paths are certainly worth a trial. In congenial soil the Heather spreads quickly, and forms a path that "gives" to the tread in a manner that makes it most agreeable to walk upon.

Edgings to Lawns and Walks.—There is something to be said for the long plain strip of wood, secured to short uprights placed along the grass verge at intervals of a few yards. (These uprights should be 12 inches below the ground and about 1½ inches above). It fulfils the purpose of keeping the grass edge intact, and, as those who have small gardens know, this is not an easy matter when the lawn has much hard wear. Nevertheless, the strip of wood, useful though it be, is ugly and detracts from the beauty of the plain grass verge. In little gardens one has occasionally to sacrifice appearance for the sake of usefulness, and this is a case in point. Bricks set in a slanting direction, close together, half in and half out of the soil, form an



A PLAIN WALK MADE BEAUTIFUL BY OVERHANGING FLOWERS.

attractive edging to a flower border, and the monotonous regularity of the brick ends is soon relieved by a planting of white Arabis, yellow Alyssum, purple Rock Cress, and other quick growing creeping plants. Then stones of irregular shape form an excellent edging when covered by some of the plants just mentioned. Tiles are commonly used, but they are very stiff and formal, not readily covered with plants, and easily broken. These creeping plants will encroach on the path here and there if allowed to have their own way, and the path as well as the garden generally thereby gains in attractiveness.

A Quaint and Curious Edging.—Anyone caring for a curious, rather than a beautiful, edging, should arrange bottles by burying them neck downwards for about two-thirds of their length. In the course of two or three years ferns will probably grow within the bottles, and form a feature that is at once interesting and uncommon. Letters have been received by me on several occasions, asking for an explanation of the presence of ferns in bottles laid down as an edging. This of course lies in the fact that fern spores which happened to be in the soil found congenial conditions inside the bottle neck, and germination ensued.

Live or Plant Edgings.—Edgings formed of plants are known as live edgings, in contradistinction to those made of wood, brick, stones, etc. Box is perhaps the commonest of all live edgings, but it is hardly suitable for the small garden. It seems more appropriate in the kitchen garden, or to limit the quaint and formal beds in a Dutch flower garden. Box edging is very liable to get out of order, then gaps occur and its value is diminished. I think there is nothing among live edgings so beautiful as Thrift or Pinks. Thrift (*Armeria lauchearia* is the best) spreads quickly when established, and the tufts soon grow into each other, and thus form a charming mass of compact, deep green leafage. Then in summer-time the plants are studded all over with charming old fashioned daisy-like flowers of rose red colouring. Thrift is evergreen, and thus all the year round has a distinct value. Pinks, too, captivate everyone when they are in full blossom in June (and how prodigal of flower they are!), while their grey foliage, which persists all the year round, has a quiet beauty even in the depth of winter. Evergreen Candytuft, smothered with white flowers in early summer, is often used as an edging, but it is scarcely as useful by itself as Thrift or Pinks; it is seen at its best when it has stones or bricks over which to scramble.

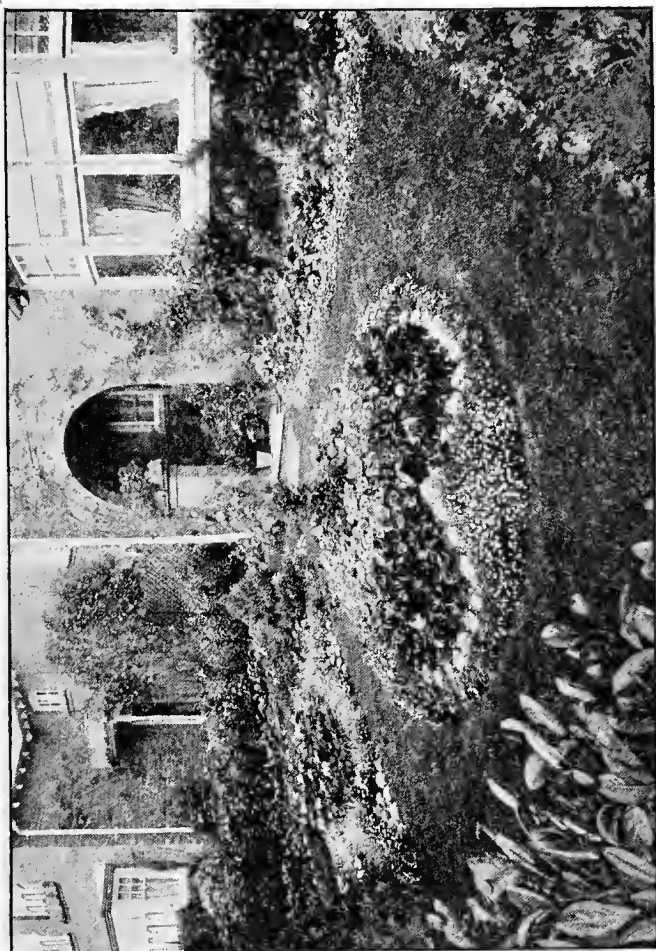
MAKING A LAWN

There are two ways of forming a lawn; one is by laying down turves, the other by sowing seeds. The former is more expensive than the latter, but it gives a lawn fit for use in less time. The best time to lay turves is in late September or about the middle of March. Before the turves are put down the soil should be well dug,

so that the grass roots may enter it easily. The turves need beating down and a slight sprinkling of soil is beneficial, for it gets washed into the interstices between the turves, thus helping the lawn to consolidate more quickly. It is best to use a wooden, flat bottomed turf beater; failing this the turves may be trodden down with the feet. If the weather is dry during late March and April care must be taken that the lawn does not get dried up; frequent watering may be necessary.

Lawns from Seed.—This is the method most commonly employed, and on the whole it may be considered the more satisfactory. One is very apt to get bad turf, and then the lawn becomes a perpetual annoyance; in the end it may have to be dug up and sown with grass seed. There is, of course, the danger of buying bad seed, but this is more easily guarded against. I know of no way in which gardening money can be spent more unsatisfactorily than in buying bad grass seed. Good seed costs but little more, and it is impossible to have a nice lawn without it. Next in importance to the purchase of good seed comes the preparation of the ground. This should be dug at least 12 inches deep, and all coarse weeds carefully taken out, by hand if necessary. Unless this be done they are certain to reappear after the lawn is sown. The ground ought really to be dug a month or two before seed sowing, so that it may settle. To prepare for the reception of the seed the surface is carefully raked, rough and lumpy soil broken down, and uneven places made smooth. Then the roller is passed over to ensure a level surface, for once the grass is up, irregularities are far more difficult to put right. When ordering grass seed it is best to state the character of the soil in one's garden, and whether the lawn is to be in a sunny or shady spot. Seed merchants keep different kinds of grass seeds for varying soils and situations, and it is well to be suited in these respects.

Sowing the Seeds.—Grass seeds are sown broadcast, first from north to south, then from east to west to make sure that the ground is covered as regularly as possible. A calm day should be chosen for seed sowing, or the seed, which is very light, will be blown in all directions. It is not necessary to sprinkle soil over the seed, but I think this is the simplest method of covering it in a little garden. Anyone skilled in handling the rake would use this, simply raking in the seeds lightly. But this work needs doing rather carefully, otherwise the even surface will be disturbed, some seeds will be buried, and others left exposed. It is quite easy to cover the freshly sown seed by means of fine soil sifted upon it. If the lawn be a large one this method would be impracticable and the rake would be necessary. After the seeds are covered a light rolling does good. Very little mowing and plenty of rolling are necessary the first season, in fact some gardeners scarcely cut the grass at all during the first summer. When 3 or 4 inches high the grass is usually cut with a scythe, as the blades of

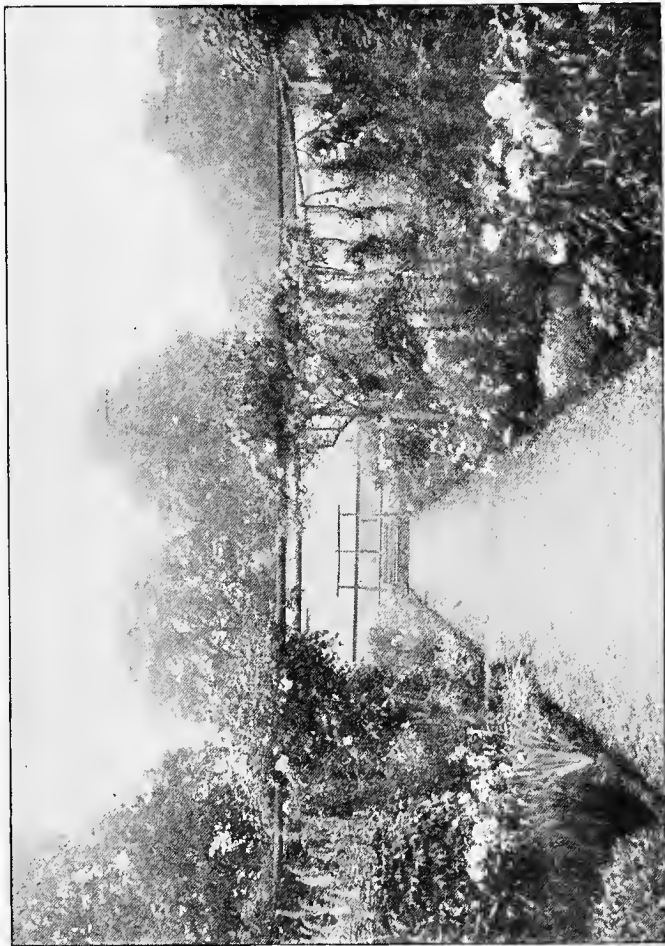


A COOL NEAT PLOT OF GREEN AMID FLOWERS OF BRILLIANT COLOURING.

a mowing machine are liable to pull up the roots. During the first three months after sowing, the lawn should be rolled frequently with a light roller, so as to consolidate the surface. Rolling when the lawn is dry and hard, or very wet, or during frosty weather, does more harm than good. Rolling has most value when the lawn is moist and soft without being wet and sodden.

Time to Sow Grass Seeds.—The middle of September and the middle of March are the best times. The only drawback to the September sowing is that if the winter should prove exceptionally severe the young grass may be damaged. Still, from experience gathered during recent winters, I think the danger from frost is not great, and I would rather sow in September than in March. I write (in May) in front of a small lawn that is in quite fair condition from seed sown last September. Naturally it is somewhat soft and the sward is not so dense as it will be, but if rolled and watered frequently, and mown occasionally, it will be fit for hard wear by the end of the summer. As soon as the seeds are sown it becomes necessary to protect them from birds, otherwise these soon play sad havoc. A simple, yet quite satisfactory, method of doing this is to stretch black thread in zigzag fashion all over the sown surface. This may prove somewhat tedious if the lawn is of fair size, but short of engaging a boy to keep watch for a week or two until the seed has germinated (and he would have to be up *very* early in the morning, for it is then that most damage is done) I know of nothing better. Scarecrows and flags of rag and ribbon are almost useless. Strips of tin or zinc hung loosely on strings are better, provided there is wind enough to turn them about.

Weeds on Lawns.—In this connection it may be urged that "prevention is better than cure" many times over, for weeds in a lawn are a terrible nuisance. It is a difficult and tedious business to get them out, then there is the bother of making good the bare spaces. If the work of preparing the ground is done carefully, and good seed is used, there will be few coarse weeds, although some of the common annual sorts are sure to make their appearance. Such of the former as Daisies, Dandelions, Plaintains, Docks, and Thistles must be dug out with an old table knife which has a worn blade, and a little salt or weed killer should be very carefully dropped into the hole (without touching the surrounding grass) so as to kill any root that may remain. These coarse weeds must be dug right out; it is no use cutting them off at the ground level, they will grow again. A certain way of destroying weeds is to inject poison, sulphuric acid or one of the advertised weed killers, into the heart of the plant by means of a little syringe specially made. Great care is needed, however, not to let the acid touch the grass, the person, or the clothes, and when not in use the bottle should be locked safely



THE FINEST BEDS OF FLOWERS ADMIT OF A PROSAIC EXPLANATION—THOROUGH SOIL PREPARATION.

away. Using lawn sand according to directions is a simple way of getting rid of coarse weeds.

Mossy Lawns.—Moss on lawns indicates either the need for drainage or the presence of poor soil. In each case the remedy is obvious. Sometimes one part of the lawn is always mossy and damp; in this case it may be taken as certain that drainage is needed. This is one of the things that should be determined before the lawn is made, as it is a great nuisance to have to take up the grass for the purpose of laying drains. As the pipes must be 2 feet below the surface it is hardly safe to relay the turf, or to sow seed, for three months at least, for the soil will not have settled to its normal position before then. When, as is often the case, poor soil is responsible for the presence of the moss, the latter should be raked out with an iron rake. This operation will spoil the appearance of the lawn for a little while, but if given a light top dressing of rich soil it will soon improve. Wood ashes—the ashes resulting from the burning of garden refuse—are admirable for mixing with soil as a top dressing for the lawn.

Worm Casts.—These are a great nuisance on newly made lawns, and interfere with the work of rolling, as well as disturb and spoil the lawn surface. The simplest way to get rid of them is by watering the lawn, either before or after sowing, with lime water. A barrel is filled with water, and freshly burnt lime is added until the water will take up no more. When the latter has become clear it is ready for use. Its application to the ground through a “rose” fixed on the spout of a watering can will bring out the worms in numbers. They may then be collected and destroyed. Salt water will kill them.

Lawns that Deteriorate.—It does not seem to be generally realised by amateur gardeners that lawns, just as much as plants and shrubs, need stimulating food occasionally. We give manure to plants in pots and borders, and why should not we do so to lawns, which more often than not have to bear a good deal of hard wear? After a time bare patches appear, or the grass gets thin in places. If the matter is taken in hand in time a light top dressing of rich soil—sifted soil, with which special lawn manure, or wood ashes, or some other suitable fertiliser, such as Clay’s or Guano, has been mixed—will work wonders. If the bare patches are neglected it will become necessary to dig them out, replace with soil, and sow more seed.

Quantity of Seed to Sow.—The quantity of grass seed usually recommended for sowing lawns is about 5 bushels per acre. It may be useful as a guide to mention that a tennis lawn would take about 3 pecks of seed. It is best to sow pretty thickly; one gets a satisfactory lawn far more quickly than by sowing thinly, and the latter method saves little in the cost.

PREPARING THE GROUND FOR PLANTING

The First Thing to Do.—The most beautiful beds and borders of flowers always admit of a prosaic explanation, namely thorough preparation of the soil. Without this, subsequent care and attention are vain, and the best results will never be obtained. This means a certain amount of labour on someone's part, for it resolves itself into "digging, real digging, double digging if you like," as an enthusiastic amateur recently remarked. There is a good deal to be said in favour of digging; it is admirable exercise and does the ground much good. But it is of no use digging when the soil is wet and sticks to the spade and boots. Then more harm than good results from attempting to "work" the land. October and November are the best months for digging. Most plants may be transplanted then, and the ground is usually in proper condition; later than November it becomes very wet, and it is almost impossible to break up the clods. In a new garden it is best to trench any beds or borders that may be made, otherwise the soil need only be dug 12 inches deep, presuming that at no distant date it was trenched. I am sure that if amateurs only realised the real value of having their garden soil well dug periodically—at any time, in fact, when it chanced to be bare—the plants would grow far better than they sometimes do. It is an excellent plan to transplant common hardy perennials every three or four years and to take this opportunity of trenching the border, or at any rate digging it deeply.

How to Trench.—Briefly explained, trenching consists in digging the soil about 3 feet deep. One commences by taking out a trench 2 feet deep across one end of the plot. The soil from the trench is wheeled to the opposite end and placed there in readiness for filling the open trench that will be left when the worker reaches the end. When the 2-foot-deep trench is made the bottom spit of soil is simply dug over, not removed. Then the top spit (about 12 inches) from the plot of ground immediately behind the open trench is thrown in the bottom of the latter. The second spit is placed on that, filling the open trench to its original level and leaving a second open trench two spits (or 2 feet) deep. The soil at the bottom of this is dug over but remains in its place. If the whole of the bed or border is treated in this way an empty trench will remain at the end of the plot; this of course is filled with the soil wheeled alongside from the first trench.

Light and Heavy Soil.—As a rule light soil gives better results than heavy soil in the hands of a beginner, because it is more readily improved and made suitable for plant cultivation. By digging in a good dressing of farmyard manure, or using Hop manure, road scrapings, leaf mould, loamy soil, leaves, or vegetable refuse, it soon improves. Now soil that is heavy, clayey, and sticky needs a lot of working or digging before it becomes friable and congenial to the roots of plants. It should be dug in the autumn and left rough all the winter, the clods unbroken so that as large a

surface as possible may be exposed to the influence of rain, frost, and snow. Then in February or March the soil will crumble when dug and a fine tilth will be obtained. It should be dug several times before seed sowing or planting. Road scrapings containing plenty of road grit, burnt clay, lime and brick rubble are useful materials to mix with heavy soil for the purpose of improving its mechanical condition, or in other words making it more suitable as a rooting medium. It is astonishing how even the most unpromising of heavy soils improves after constant digging, if the lumps of clay are well broken up as the work proceeds.

PLANTING

The Best Time to Plant.—October and November are the best months in which to plant. If the soil is poor or light, sandy or gravelly, then autumn planting is most advisable; if the soil is very stiff and cold and wet it will be just as well, or probably better, to plant in March, for during winter many plants might die. A light soil through which water passes freely, naturally keeps drier than a heavy retentive soil, and while plants freshly put in might decay in the latter during winter, they would not do so in the former. As a rule, Roses, trees and shrubs, fruit trees, hardy border plants, and spring flowering bulbs are planted in October and November. In exceptional cases, as for instance in unusually heavy soil, the plants might be planted in March so as to avoid possible losses in the winter, but the early flowering bulbs must take their chance.

Planting Bulbs.—Although spring flowering bulbs are generally put in the ground in October and November, they would often give finer blooms if planted during September, since they would have so much more time in which to root. Naturally the better rooted they are before top growth begins the finer chance there is of a successful blossoming. Daffodils, Tulips, and other common spring bulbs can be bought in July, August, and September. Daffodil exhibitors recognise to the full the great value of early planting, and put their bulbs in in July and August. This, of course, can only be done when a special plot of ground is set apart for their cultivation. If the bulbs are put in in December they will bloom in April, but they would produce far finer flowers if planted in September. It is very necessary that Snowdrops, Crocuses, Squills, and Aconites—to mention four of the commonest early bulbous plants—should be planted in August or early September.

What to Plant in Spring.—Generally it may be said that spring planting should be practised only for an autumn display, the supposition being that plants to bloom in spring and summer are put in the ground the previous autumn. Some of the chief things to plant in spring are early flowering (August and September) Chrysanthemums, Gladioli, *Michaelmas Daisies, Cardinal Lobelia, *Japanese Anemone, Montbretias, *Spanish and English Irises, Galtonia candicans (bulbous plant with stems 3 feet high, bearing



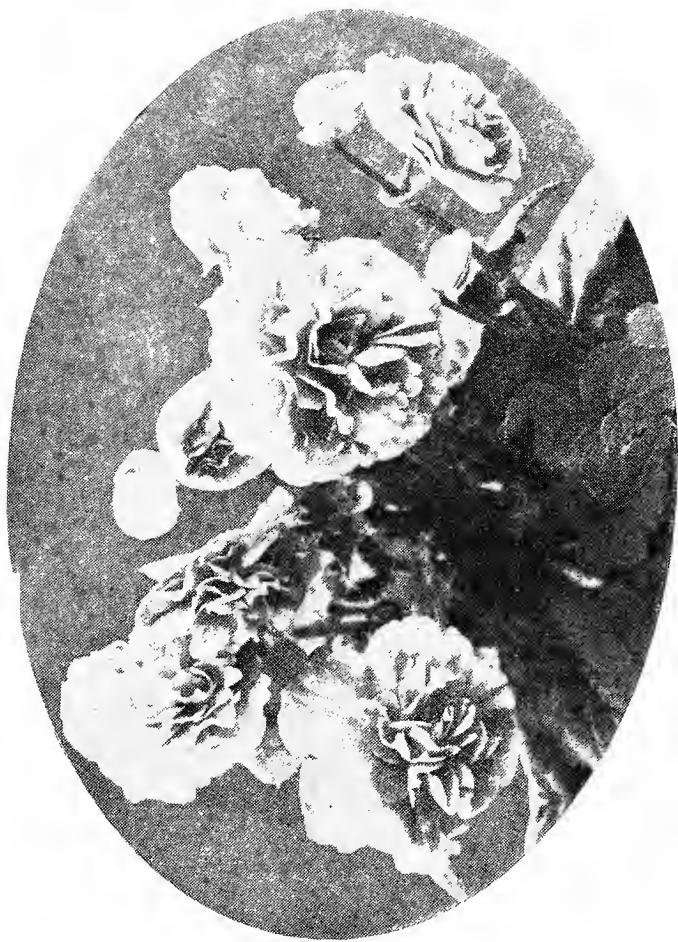
MAKING THE MOST OF A SHADY GARDEN.

white bell shaped blooms), Carnations (wintered in flower pots in cold frames), Violas and Pansies (the cuttings are inserted in a cold frame in late summer and left there throughout the winter), **Pyrethrum uliginosum* (vigorous plant with large Marguerite-like flowers), *Golden Rod, Lilies of sorts, Dahlias. But all those marked with an asterisk may be planted in the autumn with advantage.

Best Plants for Shady Borders.—Shady borders are very often an eyesore in gardens, as so many people select the wrong plants for such positions, and in this case selection is an all important matter. Hardy ferns, Ivy, Periwinkle, Day Lilies, Japanese Anemones, German or Flag Iris, London Pride, *Saxifraga Rhei* (a little free blooming Rockfoil, good for edging), Variegated *Euonymus radicans* (if Bluebells are planted in between a charming display follows), Stocks, Sweet Scented Tobacco (*Nicotiana affinis*), Japanese Brier (*Rosa rugosa*), white climbing Rose *Félicité Perpétue*, red climbing Rose *Reine Marie Henriette*, cream coloured *Gloire de Dijon*, Foxgloves, Primroses, Cardinal Lobelia, Michaelmas Daisies, Monkshood (*Aconitum Napellus*), Giant *Spiraea* (*Spiraea Aruncus*), *Pyrethrum uliginosum* (early autumn flowering Daisy plant, vigorous), Golden Rod, Goat's Rue (*Galega*), the broad leaved Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*), Honesty, Sunflowers, double white Rock Cress, common Solomon's Seal and the broad leaved Solomon's Seal, Squills, Daffodils, St. John's Wort (*Hypericum calycinum*), Forget-me-nots, and *Megasea cordifolia* (a large leaved plant with rosy flowers allied to the Rockfoils)—all these are valuable for the shady border.

Flowers for Dry, Sunny Gardens.—Poppies (Shirley, French, and Iceland Poppies especially), Cornflowers, Snapdragons, Sweet Alyssum, Nasturtiums, Verbenas, Rock Rose (*Helianthemum*), Cistuses, Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus*), Scabious or Pincushion Flower, pot Marigolds (*Calendula*), *Tagetes pumila* (a bright little orange flowered plant related to the Marigolds), Venus's Navel Wort (*Omphalodes verna*), the beautiful Scarlet Flax (*Linum grandiflorum rubrum*), Virginian Stock, Candytuft, *Alyssum minimum* (a charming little Alyssum suitable for edging), *Salpiglossis* (an annual with variously coloured blooms), the Mist Grass (*Agrostis nebulosa*), the Rose of Heaven (*Agrostemma coeli-rosa*), *Viscaria* (a rose coloured annual), Portulaca, *Eschscholtzia* (an annual with cup shaped flowers of brilliant shades of yellow), the Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*)—all these may be relied upon to give a good account of themselves in hot, dry positions where many plants would fail.

Flowers for Dusty Gardens.—Only those who live by the busy roadside realise what a bane dust proves to the gardener and flower lover. One whose garden is thus situated has experimented with the object of finding out which plants are best suited to dusty gardens. Those with a pendent habit are found to give most satisfaction. Fuchsias head the list, and next to these come the drooping forms of tuberous Begonias. Both are almost dustproof, for



THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA IS ONE OF THE BEST FLOWERS FOR DUSTY GARDENS.

very little dust finds its way into the centre of the flowers, and what dust there is is easily washed off without injuring the blooms. Abutilons and Nasturtiums are also recommended. Among hardy flowers Columbine, Pentstemon, and Snapdragon are some of the best. Tufted Pansies may be included because the blooms are not injured where the dust is washed off with the help of a fine rosed watering can. Plants with narrow leaves and small flowers are certainly the best for dusty gardens. Roses are perhaps the most unsatisfactory of all, especially those with cup shaped blossoms. Double Geraniums are better than single ones. Sweet Peas may be grown because if the dust is removed by syringing gently no harm is done to the flowers.

HOW TO MAKE A SMALL ROCKERY

A regular surface outline is to be avoided. Bold, angular projections are features of natural rockery formation, and one should endeavour to imitate Nature as closely as possible. A rockery loses in value if placed as an isolated object in the garden. It should form part of it, and this effect may be achieved by extending the rockery in as natural a manner as possible until only a few stones mark its commencement. The small rockery gains by having a suitable background.

The Material.—Various kinds of stone may be used; but pieces of rock hewn from a quarry, or rough boulders gathered from a stream or river bed, are the most suitable. They should vary in size and shape, then it will be a much easier matter to obtain a good effect. It should be remembered that the more irregularly shaped the stones are, the more suitable will they be. Even in a small rockery several stones ought to be long and pointed; if properly placed they will form a distinct feature. Again, some of the stones should be almost square in shape, but preferably broad and flat with square shaped edges. These are valuable for forming ledges. Some think that any kind of rubbish will do for the plants to grow in; it may be placed in the bottom, or bed of the rockery, but should not be used near the surface nor amongst the stones. A good general soil consists of fibrous loam, leaf soil, and peat in equal proportions, with a free admixture of old mortar rubbish. The ingredients should be well mixed together, and the greater portion of the bulk placed in the desired position before the rock stones are fixed.

Building the Rockery.—Having heaped up the main portion of soil, commence to fix the stones around the base, embedding them in the soil so that they will not get displaced later on. In fixing the stones it must be seen that sufficient space is left between them for soil and plants. But the space should be varied; for example, between two stones a space of 3 inches might be allowed; and between the two neighbouring stones, a space of



A CHARMING AND EASILY GROWN ROCK PLANT (*SAXIFRAGA CAESPITOSA*).

9 inches. Provision is thus made for single plants or for clumps, or for those that naturally spread. Certain pieces of rock may project outwards, and these should have a flat, or almost flat, surface. One stone must not overhang another, as water would, in such a case, be prevented from running into the soil around the roots of the plants. The water should drip from the stones to the soil in the intervening spaces, not from stone to stone, and finally to the ground surrounding the rockery. Fill up as required with prepared compost.

Planting.—It is a wise plan to put in good specimen plants at first. The rarer or more delicate kinds are planted from pots, so that they may become the sooner established in their new quarters. Succulent plants, and those of a mossy habit should be planted on, or near, the flat shaped stones that the growths may spread over the surface. Those of a pendulous habit need positions which overhang pieces of rock; the shoots will then depend gracefully from the edges. Ferns require plenty of rooting space, and should be planted judiciously in the rockery, so as to give a fully furnished appearance when their fronds are full grown, without unduly overcrowding other subjects.

Some Suitable Plants to Grow.—*Alyssum saxatile* compactum, golden yellow; *Arabis*, double and single, white; *Aubrietias*, *Campanula Attica*, purple; *C. alba*, white; *Cerastium tomentosum*, white flowers, silvery foliage, grow in masses; *Dianthus* (Indian Pink), Foxgloves, *Gilia tricolor*, *Iberis Gibraltarica*, *Ionopsidium acaule* (lilac flowers); *Linum flavum*, golden yellow; *Lychnis Lagascae rosea*, *Mesembryanthemum tricolor*, *Nemesia compacta coerulea*, *Nierembergia gracilis*, *Oxalis corniculata purpurea*, *Sanvitalia procumbens*, beautiful trailing habit, and free flowering; *Saponaria*, *Sedums*, *Saxifragas*, *Silene pendula*, pink; *S. Alpestris*, white; *Sempervivums*, *Potentillas*, hardy *Primulas*, *Alpine Phloxes*, *Myosotis*, *Lithospermum prostratum*, *St. John's Wort*, *Gypsophila repens*, *Gentian*, *Arenaria*, *Anemone Alpina*, *A. sulphurea*, *Aethionema grandiflora*, *Achilleas*, and hardy ferns, of which the following are suitable for a small rockery: *Adiantum pedatum*, *Allosorus crispus*, *Asplenium Filix-foemina* (Lady Fern), *Ceterach officinarum*, *Nephrodium Filix-mas* (Male Fern), *Osmunda regalis* (the Royal Fern), *Polypodium Dryopteris* (Oak Fern), *P. vulgare*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and *Scolopendrium* in variety. Ferns are often planted in too much peat, with the result that the roots get very dry in such positions and the fronds shrivel. Some peat may be used, but only a small quantity. If the peat is simply mixed with good fibrous loam, and 1 peck of old mortar rubbish is used to 2 bushels of the compost, a capital rooting medium for ferns is obtained.

CHAPTER III

Beautiful Beds of Flowers—How to Plan and Plant them.

WHEN designing a new flower bed in grass, the gardener does well to bear in mind that very elaborate shapes, especially those made up of fine curves, are exceedingly troublesome to use the lawn mower round ; many necessitate the use of the shears, and this extra piece of work, coming twice a week in the grass growing months, is a serious drawback. For this reason the beautiful bed shown in Fig. 1 should be cut in gravel in preference to grass. The design is a simple combination of two stars and a ring, the last having an edging of its own ; the loveliest effect is gained by making both stars of gold, the inner one paler than the outer. Golden Calceolarias and dwarf Tagetes will do admirably for portions A and B ; the groundwork of the ring C may be of white Begonias, the edge D of scarlet Begonias, and the points edging E of Tom Thumb scarlet Nasturtiums. As an Aster and Stock bed this design looks pretty carried out in violet, pink, white, and crimson ; the stars in this case should be white, the ground pink, the edge D crimson, the points B violet, and the edging to the points pink. There are many heights among varieties of Asters and Stocks, so to choose sorts is easy. As a bed for the usual popular bedding plants, the stars may be filled respectively with Geranium Cloth of Gold and Pyrethrum aureum, the round C may be of Geranium Silver Leaf, the edge of blue Lobelia, with a point edging of Lobelia in the pale blue shade, or else white. Rows of a foliage plant accentuate the effect of the centre star, *e.g.* dwarf Beet, Coleuses, Cineraria maritima, Centaurea candidissima, or Golden Feather. As a bed all of Violas—except for the foliage plant—this is very charming : stars of Ardwell Gem and A. J. Rowberry will provide two shades of yellow, C should be rich purple, D a white ring, and the edging E mauve.

Originality of planting is possible in a bed of most ordinary shape ; an example of this truth is shown in Fig. 2, where an oblong bed is arranged in a striking fashion. One of its merits is the perfect simplicity of the lines, which makes pegging out a matter of not the slightest difficulty. A may be of brown Calceolarias, B of gold Calceolarias, C of purple Asters, D of mauve Asters, E of cream Stocks, F of carmine Asters, G of Pyrethrum aureum (Golden Feather), H of cream Begonias, Asters, or Eschscholtzia alba. The border I should be brown to match the centre line of Calceolaria ; this colour can be gained from a Tom Thumb Nasturtium.

A bed of hardy annuals sown so as to carry out this pattern looks pleasing ; the lines A and B may be of a crimson scarlet and a salmon rose Shirley Poppy. C can be covered over with Mignonette, D with white Candytuft ; E can show forth the gorgeous amber of

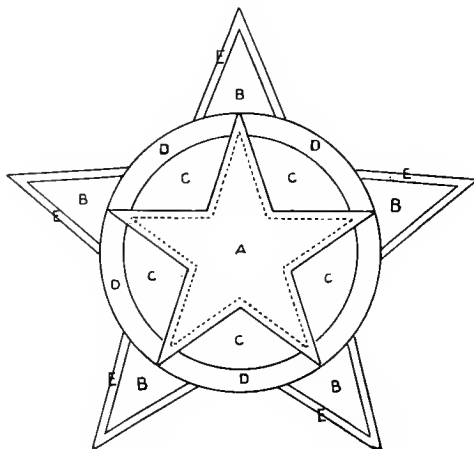


FIG. 1.—TO BE CUT IN GRAVEL.

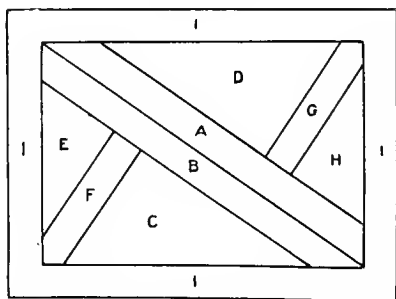


FIG. 2.—ORIGINAL PLANTING OF AN OBLONG BED.

Eschscholtzia crocea, with the line F done in a salmon pink variety of Cupid Sweet Pea, the line G being similarly done with a carmine Cupid Sweet Pea ; the space H should match the opposite one of *Eschscholtzia*, so a deep gold Tom Thumb Nasturtium will answer the purpose splendidly. As for the edging I, running as it does past

white, gold, salmon, and crimson, nothing can look better than a plant that is chiefly silver foliage; for this purpose I recommend a sowing of a little known annual of great beauty, Cream Cups, or *Platystemon Californicus*. This is easy to grow, but needs sunshine; the cream blossoms are shaped like wood Anemones, and the grey leaves are elegant in shape.

Carpet bedding is frequently denounced as vulgar, or at best a stiff, unsuitable way of using bedding plants. Now the more I study the subject the more convinced I become that our summer flowers are

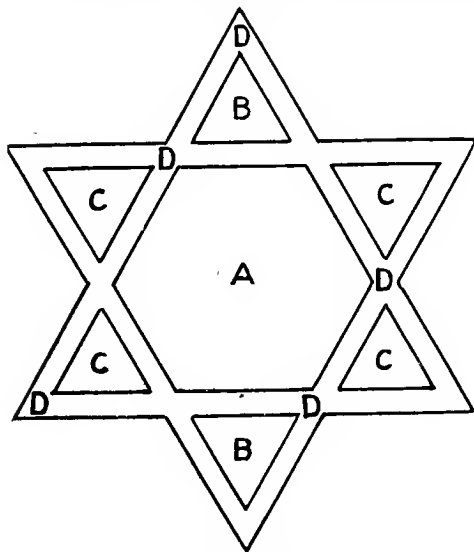


FIG. 3.—BANDS OF COLOUR ARE A FEATURE.

shown off to perfection when they are kept within the limits of simple designs. When grown in mixed masses in a bed or border, both hardy and half hardy annuals have a tendency to spoil the effect of one another, whereas in pattern beds their associates are carefully chosen. Nor is there any reason why an irregularly shaped stretch of ground covered by Verbenas, Asters, or Stocks should be more artistic than a prettily shaped one. In good bedding arrangements there is no more attempt to hinder the natural habit of growth of a plant than there is to stunt its height. Take a bed shaped like Fig. 3, for example; the gay colours of the larger portions are beautifully divided by bands.

A lovely filling for the bed in Fig. 3 would be deep rose double Geraniums at A, pink *Begonia semperflorens* at B, single pale pink Geraniums at C, and dwarf purple Asters at D, or else white Violas or, if preferred, purple Violas. Lemon and white Marguerites, lemon Iceland Poppies, and mauve Violas would make a pretty combination, or a blue and yellow show could be carried out in tall Cornflowers, *Phacelia campanularia*, dwarf Cornflowers, and yellow Violas.

The value of simple form is shown by the bed in Fig. 4, where lines once more separate gay hues and prevent the taller plants from encroaching upon one another. A marks a tall foliage

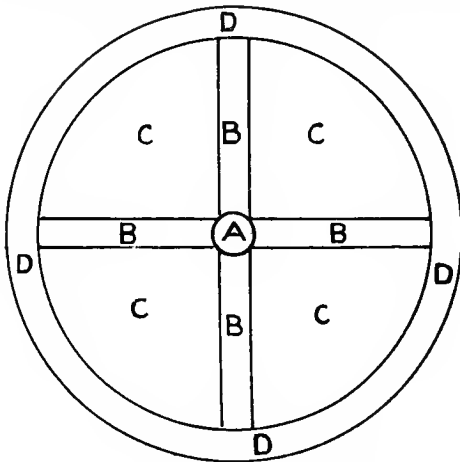


FIG. 4.—THE VALUE OF SIMPLE FORM.

subject, the full beauty of which is seen down the glades formed by the cross lines B, while its summit will give height about the chief plants. A palm would be most handsome in this situation, or a giant *Nicotiana*. The cross B might be of pink Violas, the spaces C of white Marguerites or Asters, and the edging D of crimson Violas. Scarlet and yellow Begonias could create the cross and the edge, enclosing spaces of white *Nicotiana affinis* or white Stocks, or a satisfactory piece of colour would result from making the cross of gold Tom Thumb Nasturtiums, the edge of brown Nasturtiums, and filling the spaces with peach coloured Asters or Stocks.

New schemes for oblong beds are always welcome, and Fig. 5 suggests one of the simplest yet most striking nature; whether A be made of scarlet Geraniums, royal blue *Phacelia*, violet Stocks,

carmine Asters, or golden Calceolarias, the end portions B can be of palest yellow, such as *Viola Ardwell Gem*, and the sides C of white *Violas*. Other combinations of flowers that will prove admirable are white *Petunias* and mauve and purple *Violas*, lemon *Iceland Poppies*, royal blue *Lobelia* and pale blue *Nemophila*, reddish *Mignonette*, scarlet *Begonias*, and crimson scarlet *Nasturtiums*. Yet a

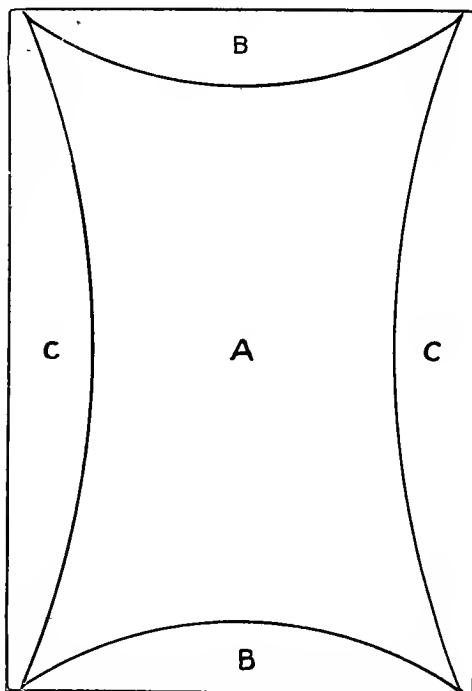


FIG. 5.—NEW SCHEME FOR OBLONG BED.

simpler style will be gained by making the spaces B and C alike, say of dwarf white Asters surrounding a centre of *Cannas* or *Fuchsias*.

If one admits that pattern forming does not show off flowers and foliage at their individual best, the fact remains that a few of these low, geometrical beds look lovely by contrast with others. A triangular long bed is shown in Fig. 6. I have filled it successfully with tall blue *Cornflowers* and *Phacelia campanularia* (blue) alternately

in the part A, and orange Begonias at B, a vivid colour harmony indeed.

Beauty of line is shown in Fig. 7 ; the mere shape of the bed is elegant, but it is by marking it out into patterns as shown that its

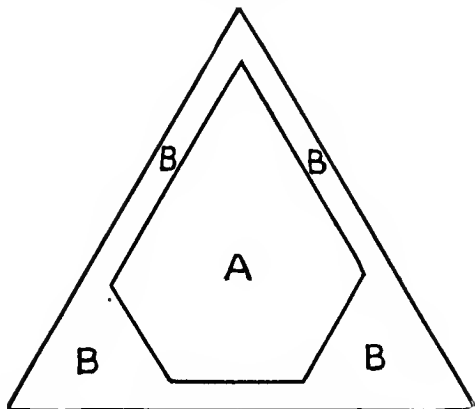


FIG. 6.—AN ORIGINAL TRIANGULAR BED.

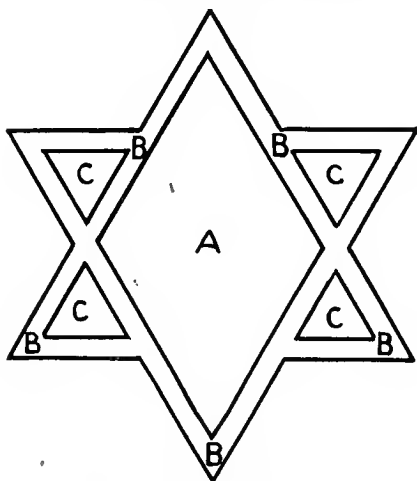


FIG. 7.—BEAUTY OF LINE.

full excellence is appreciated. This can be done in two ways—by the planting of flowering and foliage subjects in lines, triangular spaces, and centre diamond, and by using strips of turf for all the lines B. This can only be carried out upon gravel. The space marked A might all be planted with scarlet flowers, the C spaces with white ones; but innumerable schemes will suggest themselves.

Simple, easy, yet novel is the design shown in Fig. 8; all its originality consists in the extreme points that finish off the corners. Deep pink double Geraniums at A are sure to look well, but if seed raised plants are desired the same colour can be represented by Asters, Stocks, or Verbenas; the corner spaces B can be of white Violas, dwarf Candytuft, dwarf Asters, or sown Sweet Alyssum, or of rich crimson *Dianthus Heddewigii* or *Phlox Drummondii*. An unusual combination of colour is pale pink with royal blue; the pink is seen to perfection in single Geraniums and Asters, while there are

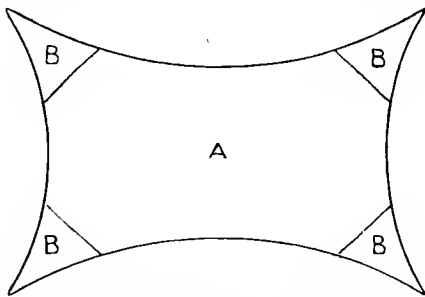


FIG 8.—SIMPLE, EASY, YET NOVEL.

varieties of Verbenas and *Phlox Drummondii* of it also; the royal blue can be obtained with *Phacelia campanularia*, dwarf Cornflower (*Cyanus minor Victoria*), or the popular *Lobelia*. Pale pink and violet look well together, so Asters might be planted in the centre, and purple Violas at the corners.

An Intricate Design.—Straight line patterns are much easier to peg out correctly than curves, therefore I recommend Fig. 9 to the attention only of those skilled in carpet bedding, or who are willing to take great pains to measure out the surface. A simple round, thus treated, becomes very noticeable and praiseworthy. The pattern consists really of two peculiarly shaped crosses laid one over the other. If A is formed of dark foliaged Beet, B of orange *Tagetes signata pumila*, C all of a good bedding variety of light lilac blue *Viola* (or *Violetta*) *Gold Crest*, the result cannot fail to be excellent. A silver foliaged plant can be used instead of Chilian Beet for one cross if preferred, but is not as effective; another silver foliaged plant of lesser stature could then make the edging. When Chilian Beet is

used the edging can be of crimson leaved *Iresine* instead of orange *Viola*, if wished. When this bed has to be situated in shade it can still be a pretty one; A may consist of golden *Calceolaria* or a gold leaved *Geranium*, B be formed of closely planted evergreen tufts of *London Pride*, C be of white *Violas*, which will not refuse to flower, and the edging D will not lack colour if composed wholly of *Pyrethrum aureum*.

Simple arrangements often look better than complex ones, especially if the gardener's skill is not great, or if the supply of plants is not very large and varied.

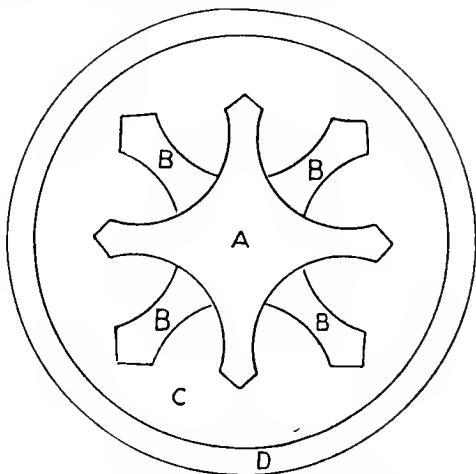


FIG. 9.—NEW PLANTING FOR ROUND BED.

A pattern that is at once easy to carry out, exceedingly effective, and still somewhat uncommon, is shown in Fig. 10; it is formed, after the edging belt, merely by setting the chief plants at regular intervals all over it, and filling the entire remaining space with a dwarf plant. The edging itself ends a few inches from each corner, thus providing four diamonds that look effective when made into bright spots of colour. One most showy arrangement of flowers, that could be carried out by almost every gardener, is to use double scarlet *Geraniums* for the tall plants, and dwarf white *Tom Thumb Candytuft* for the carpet, edging all with *Pyrethrum aureum*, the popular *Golden Feather*, and letting the diamonds be of the lavender blue *Viola Blue Gown*, or royal blue *Lobelia* if a gorgeous bed is desired.

Double rose *Begonias* on a ground of white *Nemophila*, *Phlox*

Drummondii, or simple Sweet Alyssum, would supply a more costly filling; the edge might be of crimson Iresine, and the corners of white Lobelia or rose Phlox Drummondii. Lastly, let us plan out a

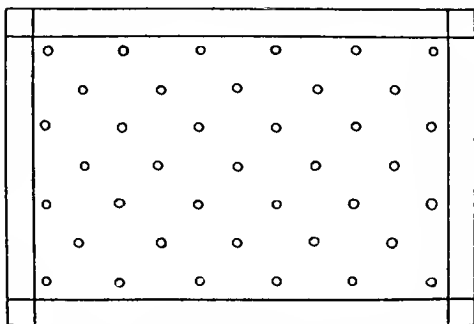


FIG. 10.—A PATTERN EASY TO CARRY OUT.

filling all of Nasturtiums. The chief plants may be of bright gold Tom Thumbs, the carpet plant the Lilliput variety named Othello, the flowers and leaves of which are alike extremely dark; the edging

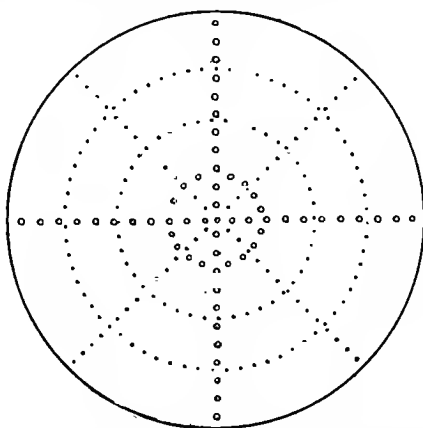


FIG. 11.—ROUND BEDS OFFER MANY OPPORTUNITIES.

can then be of Lilliput Scarlet King, and the corners of Lilliput Snow. Queen, a lovely little creamy white kind possessed of pale green foliage.

Round beds offer many opportunities, for the gardener can so easily map them out, by cords and pegs, into a number of patterns; the dotted lines in Fig. 11 will show some of the methods by which this is done. Directly the centre of the bed has been found by measurement, cords stretched crosswise from edge to edge will give a cross; as soon as this is marked out by neat little white pegs, or else by making a shallow drill, if planting is to be done at once, another cross, made by stretching the cords just half way between the branches of the first one, will divide the round into sections. By continuing to map out in the same fashion a round can be cut up into many long V shaped portions, each of which may be filled with a different coloured flowering or foliage plant; in the design shown in Fig. 11 we have, however, a wheel pattern, formed by drawing rounds between the crosses.

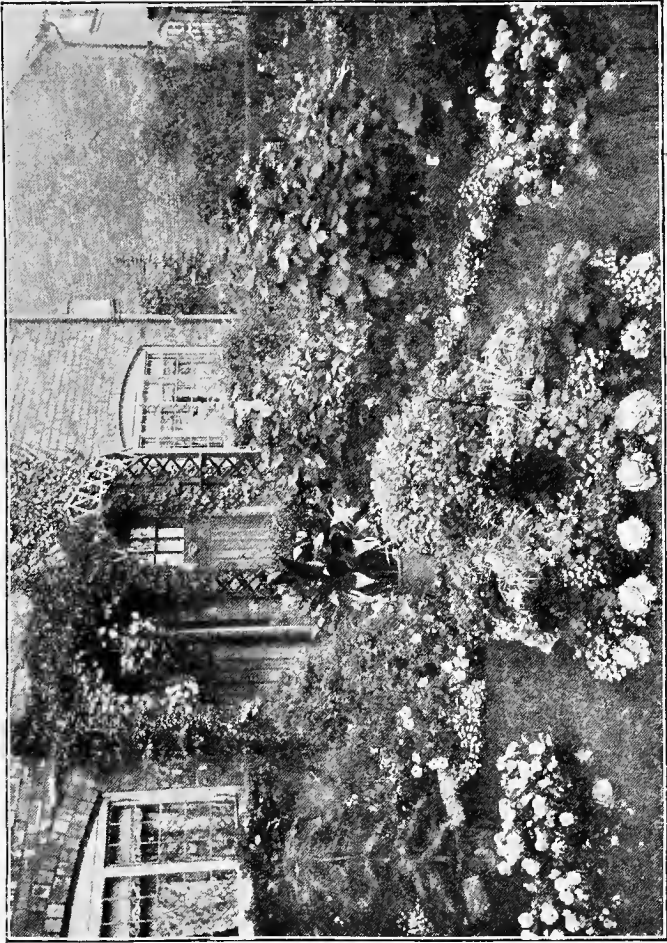
The prettiest way to plant this bed is to mark out the first cross boldly by setting dark foliage plants—let us say Chilian Beet—at 9-inch intervals; then do the second cross in a deep green plant, such as the useful hardy annual *Ambrosia Mexicana*; then the rings can be of the brightest flowers possible, say scarlet *Geraniums*, with Candytuft, blue dwarf *Asters*, and vermilion *Tom Thumb Nasturtiums* from centre to edge, defining and dividing these rings by lines of *Golden Feather* where the dotted lines of the rounds appear. Another pleasing device is to make the crosses in *Chilian Beet* and *Golden Feather*; use all white flowers, of different heights, for the rings, and divide these by lines of rich violet and mauve and rose *Violas*; suitable white flowers would be *Petunias*, *Asters*, *Candytuft*, and *Violas*. This makes a bed of exceptional beauty.

HINTS ON BEDDING OUT

Spring flowering plants, especially *Wallflowers*, tend to impoverish the soil; so that plenty of well rotted manure should be dug in after the beds are cleared. Dig the soil deeply, and thoroughly mix the manure with it. Having dug the borders, one must next proceed to prepare the surface for the plants. Very loose soil should be trodden down a little, then levelled with the garden rake and all the large stones removed. If the soil is dry it should have a copious watering several hours before the plants are put out. Now, as a rule, amateurs do not finish off the edges of their beds as well as they might. A neat, full edging is very essential, and I am now drawing special attention to this point.

Fig. 1 (p. 48) shows an oblong bed: A denotes the edge of the bed neatly formed; B, B, B, rows of plants; C, the central row. These lines may be composed of separate colours, or of one colour. In any case the marking out of the bed as shown in this sketch makes the work of planting very simple indeed. The bed is one formed in the lawn, D showing the grass.

Fig. 2 shows how to mark out a round bed: A, edge of border



HALF HARDY FLOWERS IN A LITTLE GARDEN.

neatly drawn up ; B, B, B, lines or bands of plants ; C, specimen plant ; D, grass.

Fig. 3 shows the section of the square shaped bed Fig. 1 : A, A show the soil drawn up to form the edges of the bed ; B, the centre of the bed slightly raised above the grass of the lawn.

Fig. 4 shows at A a badly formed edge to a bed ; furthermore, the grass of the lawn B is higher than the surface of the bed

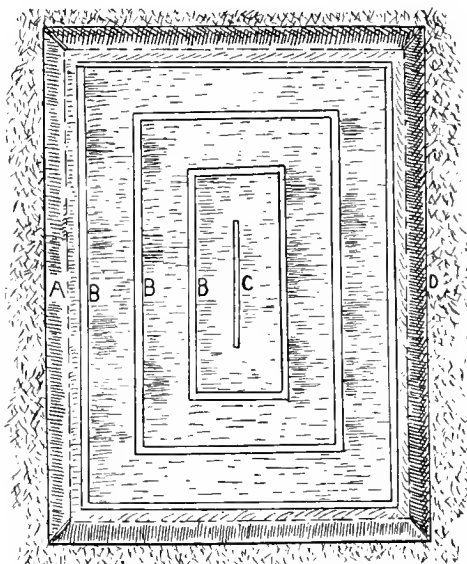


FIG. 1.—AN OBLONG BED.

the verge of the grass C is badly shaped, and the grass cannot be properly cut with the shears.

In Fig. 5 another bad edging is shown. The alley A is too deep and too wide, and the edge of the bed B is too upright. Where Box edgings are preferred, they should be neatly trimmed before the plants are put in the beds. Avoid putting out the plants so that they will become unduly overcrowded ; and also be careful to put out sufficient to give the beds a properly furnished appearance. Give water judiciously, and so encourage an early growth and abundance of flowers.

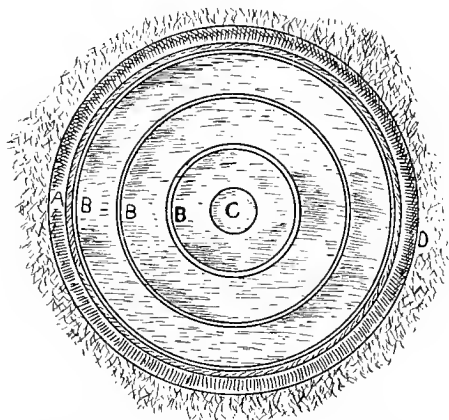


FIG. 2.—HOW TO MARK OUT A ROUND BED.

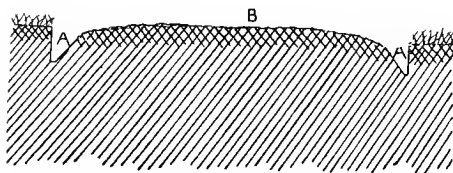
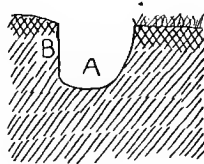
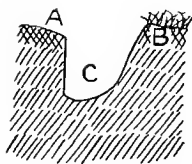


FIG. 3.—SECTION OF OBLONG BED.



FIGS. 4 and 5.—BADLY FORMED EDGES.

CHAPTER IV

Roses—Carnations—Pinks—Violets.

Everywhere are Roses, Roses,
Here a-blow and there a-bud,
Here in pairs and there in posies.

SUCH is the poet's dream of a garden of Roses, and such indeed is the ideal at which to aim. A Rose garden should be full of Roses, redolent with fragrance and overflowing with fairest blossom. And there is no good reason why the little Rose garden should not be as beautiful as the larger one if it is well conceived and carefully planted. One has first to realise that the most enchanting Rose garden hides a prosaic explanation beneath its galaxy of beauty. First, and most important of all the commonplace details, is the thorough preparation of the soil (by trenching if the garden is either neglected or new) by digging. I write from experience in my own garden when I advise readers not to use any manure if the garden is new, that is to say, has not been cultivated previously, and the soil is good. The Rose delights in nothing more than in a "good holding loam," to use a common gardening expression, or, to put it more plainly, a soil that is of yellowish brown colouring, of good depth, and containing a fair quantity of clayey soil. Roses are never so satisfactory on light, gravelly, "hungry" soil, and a heavy, clayey soil needs "working" well for several years before the Rose grower can get full satisfaction from it. If, then, you possess a new garden with a really good soil, heavy rather than light, do not attempt to improve it by adding manure. This is not needed, so nothing further can be said for it.

Preparing for planting.—If the ground is trenched as explained in a previous chapter the Roses will grow with astonishing vigour, and, moreover, the shoots will be far healthier and less liable to disease and damage by frost (since they will mature well) than those of Roses grown in heavily manured soil. At the end of three or four years the bush Roses (climbing Roses should not be disturbed) will probably benefit by being taken up and replanted. Manure may then be added to the soil. If, however, one's garden ground is not good, then steps must be taken to improve it before the Roses are put in. One of the chief methods of doing this is to dig it in suitable weather. If I were taking over a new garden in September I would dig the Rose beds thoroughly several times, and put in the



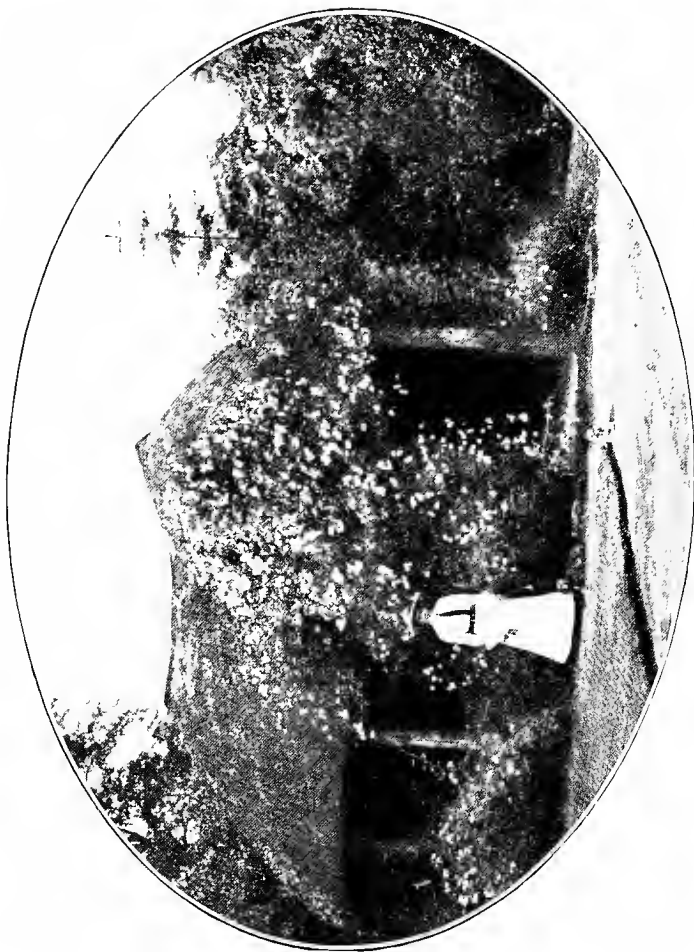
A PERGOLA OF ROSES.

plants in November, or, if the land were heavy and had been neglected, I would throw up the soil roughly into trenches, and leave it like that throughout the winter, so that as great a surface as possible might be exposed to the beneficial action of the elements. Then in early March digging again would bring the soil into admirable condition for planting, which should take place about the middle of the month, if the weather is favourable. It is true that the spring planted Roses will not make quite such a good display the first year, but they will eventually make the best plants. On light land a layer of cow manure should be dug in not less than 18 inches deep; on heavier land in need of manure ordinary strawy farmyard manure would be better.

Planting is best done in October and November, provided the ground has been properly prepared. During the winter months the roots of the Roses are inactive and the soil is cold; if, then, planting cannot be completed by November it should be deferred until March. It is an old, old story, yet one that bears repetition on account of its importance, that the hole should be made large enough to receive the roots when these are spread out. Bruised and broken ends are cut off with a sharp knife; the cut ends heal quickly, and small fibrous roots soon form. Round beds are better than square ones, for in them the roots can be spread more evenly. Very often Roses are not planted deeply enough. Many times in amateurs' gardens I have seen Roses with 3 or 4 inches of stem above ground that should have been below. It is most necessary that that part of the plant where the Rose proper joins the stock should be covered; it is easy to determine where this point is, for the shoots of newly purchased Roses arise therefrom. If the junction of stock and scion is exposed it is quite likely that this, the most vulnerable part of the plant, will be damaged in severe weather. The reason for "earthing up" Roses in winter is to make quite certain that this part is fully protected. The point of union between stock and scion offers a sound guide as to the depth at which to plant Roses; it should be buried at least 1 inch or 2 inches. If this be done the Rose proper has a chance to make roots of its own and so become independent of the stock to some extent. Roses like an open sunny position; few give satisfaction in the shade. A few of the climbers and stronger growing sorts, however, do fairly well in shady places.

PRUNING ROSES

Pruning Bush or Dwarf Roses.—In order properly to explain Rose pruning it is better to deal first with the bush or dwarf Roses, and secondly with the climbing sorts. If Roses are grown for exhibition they are pruned harder than if grown for garden decoration only. The first thing to do in pruning is to cut out all weak, sappy growths, and those growing across the centre of the plant. These are cut right out and not cut back; several good



RAMBLING ROSE OVER A RUSTIC SUMMERHOUSE.

shoots will then remain, four or five, or possibly six. These are cut back to varying lengths according to circumstances. The weakest may be shortened to two or three buds; another, rather stronger, may be cut back to four buds; while on a third, still more vigorous, five or six buds, or "eyes," as they are termed, may be allowed to remain.



HYBRID TEA ROSE BEFORE PRUNING.

The strongest shoot of all could be pegged down. This is accomplished by fastening the end of the shoot in the soil by means of a wooden peg, thus securing it in semicircular form. Practically every joint will then produce a growth and probably blossom. *Clio* is one of the very best Roses for pegging down. If the Roses are newly planted, all the shoots without exception are cut hard

back. I would not leave more than four buds on even the strongest. This is the only way in which to lay the foundation of a good plant.

Time to Prune.—The third week in March is the best time to prune the majority of Roses in southern and midland gardens ;



THE SAME ROSE PRUNED.

farther north pruning may be delayed for ten days. Tea Roses are pruned last since they are less hardy. In the south they may be pruned the second week in April, and in the north the third week of that month. Tea Roses often make a lot of weak, sappy, useless shoots, and pruning consists chiefly in cutting out these ; the remaining ones are shortened according to their vigour, the weakest

being cut back hardest. In pruning any kind of bush or dwarf Rose it is important to cut back to a bud pointing outwards, so that the resulting shoots may not grow across the centre of the plant. The cut should commence on the side of the shoot opposite to the bud and proceed in an upward direction, the knife coming out just above the bud. In pruning China or Monthly Roses the weakly growths



TEA ROSE BEFORE PRUNING.

are cut out and the remaining ones are shortened to about half their length.

Pruning Climbing Roses.—It is difficult to persuade amateurs that all newly planted climbing Roses, even if they have shoots 6 feet long, will thrive best if cut to within three or four buds of the base, that is, to within 2 or 3 inches of the ground. Not only the three or four visible buds, but also others still nearer the base of the plant, will

eventually burst into vigorous growth and lay the foundation of a splendid plant. Most strong growing climbing Roses, such for instance as Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, and others, if cut back in this way in March will have growths quite 6 feet long by the end of the summer. In subsequent years, of course, climbing Roses do not need such drastic treatment, in fact they need to be treated very carefully. Many amateurs find a difficulty in pruning their climbing Roses. It is simple enough when one realises that the best flowers and the largest quantity are produced by one year old shoots;



THE SAME ROSE PRUNED.

thus the only way to have a plant full of blossom every summer is to have as many one year old shoots as possible. By cutting down the newly planted Rose we make sure, say, of three or four good growths that will bloom the following season. Before they are in flower others will have developed, and by the time the blossoming is past the question arises of cutting out one or two so as to give the remaining shoots a better chance. Now obviously the growths to be cut out are those which have flowered. Two year old shoots will produce flowers, but only from side shoots, not from the main stem; consequently they are not so fine as those on one year old shoots

which give blooms directly from the main growths. The only way to keep a climbing Rose in full vigour is to remove one or two (or more if necessary) growths which have already blossomed, and the proper time to do this is soon after the flowers are over. Climbing Roses need practically no pruning in spring when other Roses are pruned. All that one has to do then is to shorten the ends of those



STANDARD ROSE AFTER PRUNING.

shoots retained the previous summer if they appear soft and not well matured, or have been damaged by frost.

Manuring Roses.—Roses benefit from a mulching of manure after pruning; the manure may be forked beneath the surface of the soil in the course of a few weeks. The Roses will feel the benefit of the dressing if the summer prove hot and dry. Fowl and pigeon manure should be used only after having been placed in a heap in a shed and turned over every few days for three weeks. _Then before

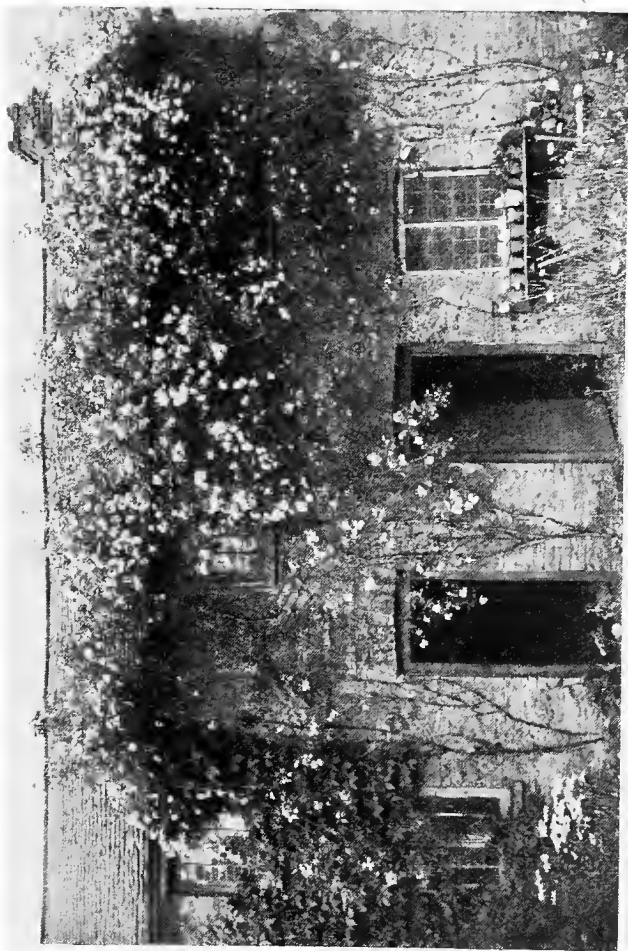


AN OLD ROSE (GESHUNT HYBRID) ROUND ABOUT A WINDOW.

use it must be mixed with an equal quantity of soil. Hop manure is excellent for Roses, especially on light soils. Wood ashes—the refuse of burnt vegetable refuse—suit Roses admirably, while blood manure is also good. Clay's Fertilizer and Guano are well known and very useful artificial manures for sprinkling on the soil surface and watering in when the Roses are growing freely.

Transplanting Roses.—How often should Roses be transplanted? One is forced to give the unsatisfactory answer that “it depends.” To judge by the magnificent bushes that one sometimes sees of such Roses as *La France* and other old favourites, the answer would seem to be “Never.” Roses on their own roots are more likely to develop into big bushes than those budded on another stock. In little gardens Roses are often planted closer together than is good for them, so that at the end of three or four years it becomes necessary to take them up and rearrange them, giving more room to those that need it. Thick, gross roots growing straight downwards can be cut back to induce the formation of fibrous ones, and the plants may be carefully replanted, with fresh soil added about the roots. The bed should be well dug, and manure put in some 15 inches deep. The Rose itself will soon show whether or not it needs replanting. If it grows and flowers well, then obviously there is nothing to be gained by disturbing it. But it will generally be found to be true that when Roses are grown in a little bed or a narrow border they are improved in vigour and floriferousness by being transplanted every three or four years. To grow a specimen Rose bush one must give it really good soil to begin with, plenty of room in which to grow, and a sunny spot. It is important also to choose a suitable variety, such as *Caroline Testout*, *Mrs. John Laing*, *La France*, *Grüss an Teplitz*.

Raising a Stock of Roses.—It is a fairly easy matter to raise one's own Roses, or at any rate some of them. Some sorts strike root readily from cuttings. If one has no greenhouse the best time to put in the cuttings is late September and October. A border at the foot of a west or north wall is a suitable place; this is dug about 18 inches deep, and the soil is made firm by treading. Then a trench 6 inches deep, with a perpendicular “face,” is cut with a spade. The cuttings, which should be 9 inches long and cut across immediately beneath a joint, are prepared from shoots which bloomed during the summer of the same year. They are placed close against the face of the trench at 9 inches apart. Thus there is 6 inches of the cutting below the soil, the upper 3 inches being above. Soil is placed against the cuttings and made firm, and another trench 6 inches deep is made 15 or 18 inches from the first, a further lot of cuttings being put in in the same way. They may remain undisturbed until the following October, when they can be put out in the Rose beds and borders. Hard frost often has the effect of lifting the cuttings partly out of the soil; if this should occur they must be made firm by treading down the soil about them.



AN UGLY COTTAGE MADE ATTRACTIVE BY CLIMBING ROSES.

How to Bud Roses.—Rose budding is very interesting work. Thousands of amateurs possess Rose trees that do not bear good blooms; but by inserting buds from newer and better varieties they may soon obtain a crop of beautiful flowers. Further, some sorts are naturally weak in growth, but produce lovely Roses; these varieties are considerably strengthened by being budded or worked on naturally strong growers. In our hedgerows we find stocks—splendid stocks—suitable for standards and half standards. A Rose bud is borne in the axil of the leaf on a young shoot—between the leafstalk and the shoot. These are naturally formed buds, and are found on the whole length of each young growth. The best buds for budding purposes are those taken from the centre of the shoot.

The Best Time for Budding.—The character of the season should guide us, to some extent, in the matter of budding. For instance, if the weather has been very hot and dry with early growth in spring, budding should be commenced at the end of June. But if the weather has been cold and the growth of young wood somewhat late, then the middle of July will be quite early enough to commence the work of budding. It is essential to success that there shall be a free flow of sap, not only in the bud bearing wood, but also in the stock. There must be free rooting action and perfect health of both stock and bud. Showery weather is favourable to the work of budding, as then the sap rises freely and the bark may be easily raised from the hard wood, while the small portion of hard wood adhering to the bud when the latter is severed from the shoot is readily removed. All shoots containing buds to be used should be kept in a pail of water from the moment they are cut from the tree or bush. A sharp knife should be used for cutting out the buds, and also for making incisions in the branch of the stock.

The smooth end of the handle of the budding knife, or a smooth wedge shaped piece of Oak or bone, must be inserted to raise the bark—not the blade of a knife. Strands of worsted may be used for wrapping around the stock and bud to keep the latter in position. The buds must be inserted the moment they are prepared and not kept for several hours before they are put into the slit in the stock. Dip each bud in water before inserting it, and tie the worsted round it before the moisture dries up. A portion of the leafstalk should be retained. It is useful as a means of handling the bud, and, further, it contains sap which will, for a short time, help to support the bud.

Fig. 1 shows the stem of a Rose tree at A, and the branches B, B with the bark cut across and lengthwise prior to its being raised.

Fig. 2 shows a bud as cut from the branch.

Fig. 3 shows the top of the bud cut off at the dark line.

Fig. 4 shows the base of the bud exposed after the hard wood is deftly removed.

Fig. 5 shows at A the bark raised.

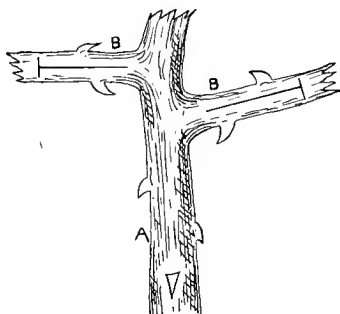


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

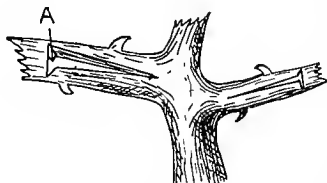


FIG. 5.

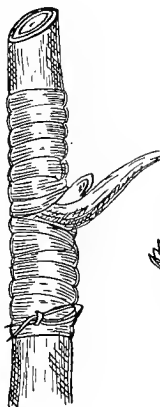


FIG. 7



FIG. 6.

HOW TO BUD ROSES.

Fig. 6 shows the bud duly inserted at A.

Fig. 7 shows the way in which the bud is held in position with strands of worsted or bast matting.

Best Roses for Little Gardens.—It is a matter of some difficulty to say which are the best twelve or twenty-four or thirty-six Roses for a small garden, since some varieties do better in one garden than in another, owing to differences of soil, aspect, and other conditions. However, those named in the following lists are all of proved worth and are confidently recommended. The Roses most generally grown in bush or dwarf form are of three kinds, Hybrid Perpetuals (H.P.), Hybrid Teas (H.T.), and Tea (T.). Hybrid Perpetuals comprise the oldest garden Roses, many of them long established favourites. Their blossoms are usually of one colour, e.g. Ulrich Brunner, A. K. Williams, Général Jacqueminot. Hybrid Teas are a newer race not quite so hardy as the Hybrid Perpetuals, but comprising some very beautiful and richly coloured flowers which are far more freely produced than those of the H.P.'s. Moreover, Hybrid Teas bloom again in September, while very few of the H.P.'s give an autumn gathering. The magnificent white Rose Frau Karl Druschki is a notable exception. The Tea Roses are distinguished for fragrance and rich and delicate shades of colour, but are not so hardy as the H.P.'s and H.T.'s. Every little Rose garden should contain varieties of each class. Several old varieties are now superseded by newer ones, so some of these are included in the following lists.

THE BEST ROSES FOR LITTLE GARDENS

FORTY RELIABLE SORTS

Anna Olivier (T.).—A beautiful pale buff coloured Rose. Flowers throughout the summer. Perhaps the best Tea Rose for the little garden.

Augustine Guinoisseau (H.T.).—Commonly known as the white La France. Flowers blush fading to white. Very free and quite an easy Rose to grow. Good again in autumn.

Captain Hayward (H.P.).—A vigorous plant with large light crimson blooms which make a handsome display.

Caroline Testout (H.T.).—Absolutely indispensable. The finest of all Roses for a little garden. Bright salmon pink. Grows vigorously and blooms profusely in summer and autumn.

Clio (H.P.).—A useful Rose. Bears stiff bunches of flesh coloured flowers.

Commandant Félix Faure (H.P.).—One of the best dark crimson Roses.

Corallina (T.).—Colour, deep rosy crimson. A vigorous free flowering Rose; especially good in the autumn.



A BED OF THE VARIETY MRS. JOHN LAING.

Dean Hole (H.T.).—A beautiful Rose, silvery carmine, shaded salmon. Makes a splendid standard.

Dr. J. Campbell Hall (H.T.).—One of the newer Roses that can be recommended with confidence. Rose colour, suffused with white.

Duke of Edinburgh (H.P.).—A vigorous variety with scarlet crimson blooms. A handsome and satisfactory Rose.

Enchantress (T.).—Creamy white, of vigorous growth, free flowering, good in autumn.

Fisher Holmes (H.P.).—Deep crimson scarlet. Makes an excellent standard. A satisfactory Rose.

Frau Karl Druschki (H.P.).—Quite the finest of all white Roses. Vigorous and profuse flowering. One of the most easily grown. Quite indispensable. Flowers pure white, unfortunately scentless.

General Schablikine (T.).—A free blooming Tea Rose with coppery red flowers, good in autumn.

Général Jacqueminot (H.P.).—An old and favourite bright crimson scarlet Rose. Very fragrant. Makes a vigorous bush.

G. Nabonnand (T.).—No Rose flowers more profusely in the autumn than this variety. Flowers flesh shaded rose. Vigorous and free. An excellent Tea Rose for a little garden.

Gustave Regis (H.T.).—Very pretty in the bud. Yellow fading almost to white as the flowers age. Vigorous and free.

Hugh Dickson (H.P.).—A handsome bright crimson Rose, of recent introduction. Vigorous and fairly free, blooms large. Fragrant.

Lady Ashtown (H.T.).—Deep pink. A beautiful free flowering variety, good in autumn. Well worth growing.

La France (H.T.).—A favourite and indispensable Rose, of silvery pink colouring. One of the best all round Roses. Very fragrant; makes an admirable standard.

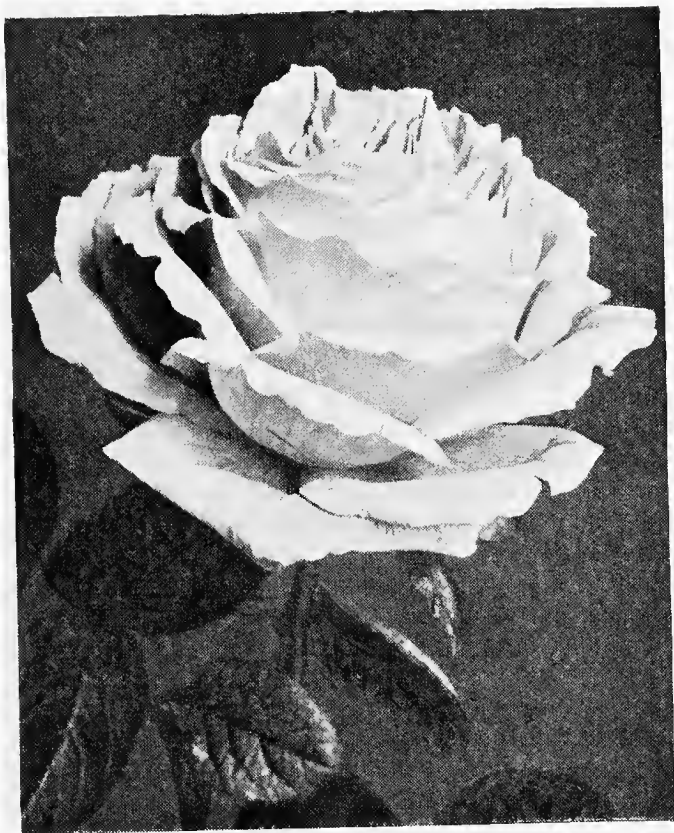
La Tosca (H.T.).—Salmon blush. A vigorous and free blooming Rose, good in autumn.

Liberty (H.T.).—Flowers of rich crimson colouring. Fairly vigorous. A charming little Rose.

Madame Abel Chatenay (H.T.).—Quite indispensable. Vigorous and very free, good in summer and in autumn. Salmon pink. A most satisfactory Rose.

Madame Jules Gravereaux (T.).—A vigorous Tea Rose, makes a bush or semi-climber. Colour light soft yellow with rose tinted centre. One of the best of the new Teas.

Madame Jules Grolez (H.T.).—A charming Rose of moderate vigour. Flowers of good form and warm silvery rose colouring. Blooms freely.



BLOOM OF ROSE MRS. JOHN LAING

Madame Ravary (H.T.).—A very beautiful Rose of orange yellow colouring, perhaps the best of this shade among dwarf Roses. Makes a splendid standard.

Maman Cochet (T.).—A favourite Tea Rose, and although largely grown for exhibition it is valuable in the garden. Of rose tinted colouring. The White Maman Cochet is also a good garden Rose.

Margaret Dickson (H.P.).—An old Rose, but one that is still well worth growing. Flowers white. Easily grown.

Marie Van Houtte (T.).—Pale yellow and rose. Makes an admirable standard. Thrives splendidly at the foot of a wall. Blooms throughout a long season.

Marjorie (H.T.).—A pretty little Rose, not very commonly grown, but I can recommend it. It blooms very freely and is fairly vigorous. Flowers white with pink tinge.

Mrs. John Laing (H.P.).—An old fashioned Rose that is still a favourite. The blooms are of rather clumsy form, but the bright rose colouring is attractive. Easily grown and one of the best of its class.

Mrs. W. J. Grant (H.T.).—A valuable free flowering Rose, fairly vigorous. Blooms of good form. Rose pink.

Peace (T.).—A charming Tea Rose of pale lemon yellow colouring. A satisfactory Tea Rose for the little garden, although not quite so free blooming as some.

Prince de Bulgarie (H.T.).—One of the newer Roses of salmon pink colouring. A good variety for the small garden, vigorous and free.

Souvenir de Pierre Notting (T.).—A Tea Rose of remarkably rich apricot orange colour. Of vigorous growth and well worth a place in even a small collection.

Sulphurea (T.).—A very free flowering variety; gives good blooms quite late. Pale sulphur coloured.

Ulrich Brunner (H.P.).—A very handsome large flowered Rose of bright red colour. Makes a brave display in July. Vigorous and quite easily grown.

Viscountess Folkestone (H.T.).—A most valuable and easily grown Rose. Flowers creamy white with pale rose shading. Deservedly a favourite.

Warrior (H.T.).—A Rose of fairly recent introduction that only needs to be well known to become a favourite. Bright crimson blooms of good shape.

Zephyrine Drouhin (Bourbon).—A vigorous, sweet scented, thornless Rose. Makes a big bush, or is suitable for pillar or wall. Flowers charming shade of bright pink.

N.B.—It may be taken as a general rule that Hybrid Tea (H.T.) and Tea Roses (T.) bloom in September as well as in July.



ROSE PINK ROAMER COVERING A TREE STUMP.

Hybrid Perpetual Roses (H.P.) usually do not bloom in the autumn.

FRAGRANT ROSES

All the following are fragrant Roses : Alfred Colomb (H.P.), bright red ; white Banksian, climber needing warm wall ; Camille Bernardin (H.P.), light crimson ; Cheshunt Hybrid (H.T.), climber, carmine red ; Charles Lefebvre (H.P.), velvety crimson ; Dr. Andry (H.P.), crimson ; E. Y. Teas (H.P.), bright red ; Dupuy Jamain (H.P.), bright rose red ; Countess Annesley (H.T.), deep salmon rose ; Mrs. John Laing (H.P.), rose pink ; La France (H.T.), silvery rose ; Général Jacqueminot (H.P.), scarlet crimson ; Ulrich Brunner (H.P.), cherry red ; Hugh Dickson (H.P.), deep red crimson ; Comyon Provence, rose pink ; Marie Baumann (H.P.), rose red ; Viscountess Folkestone (H.T.), white with rose shading ; Zephirine Drouhin (Bourbon), pink. All the Tea Roses are more or less fragrant.

CLIMBING ROSES

FOR ARCHES, ARBOURS, PILLARS, PERGOLAS

Alister Stella Gray, pale yellow ; Climbing Aimée Vibert, white ; Bennett's Seedling, white ; Conrad F. Meyer, silvery rose ; Dorothy Perkins, pink ; Hiawatha, crimson and white ; Hélène, pink with mauve shading ; Madame Alfred Carrière, white ; Madame d'Arblay, white ; Tea Rambler, coppery pink ; Turner's Crimson Rambler ; Reine Olga de Wurtemberg, light crimson ; Blush Rambler, blush colour ; Félicité Perpétue, white.

FOR WALLS OF VARIOUS ASPECTS

Facing East.—Reine Marie Henriette, carmine red ; W. A. Richardson, orange yellow ; Climbing Mrs. Grant, pink ; Bouquet d'Or, creamy yellow with deeper centre ; Longworth Rambler, light red.

Facing West.—Zephirine Drouhin, bright pink ; Gloire de Dijon, creamy yellow ; Madame Alfred Carrière, white ; W. A. Richardson, orange yellow ; Bouquet d'Or ; François Crousse, red.

Facing North.—Gloire de Dijon, Reine Marie Henriette, Félicité Perpétue, Bouquet d'Or.

Facing South.—Lamarque, white and pale yellow ; Papillon, rose pink and white ; Madame Alfred Carrière, Gloire de Dijon, W. A. Richardson, Noella Nabonnand, crimson ; Climbing Mrs. Grant, pink ; Duchesse d'Anerstadt, yellow ; Rêve d'Or, buff yellow.

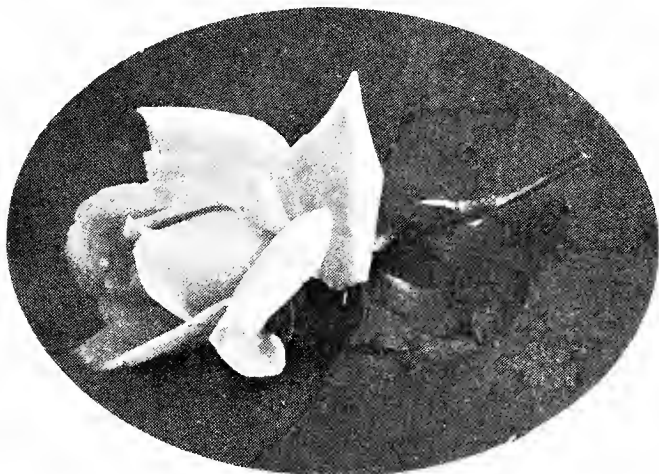
STANDARD ROSES

Weeping Standards.—The following Roses make beautiful weeping standards ; they should be obtained on stems 5 or 6 feet high : Bennett's Seedling, white ; Dorothy Perkins, pink ; Hiawatha,

crimson with white eye ; Alberic Barbier, pale buff yellow ; Jersey Beauty, pale yellow ; Lady Gay, pink ; Hélène, shaded mauve and pink.

Large Headed Standards.—The following varieties grow freely and make large heads, producing a wealth of blossom : Marie Van Houtte, Madame Ravary, W. A. Richardson, Aimée Vibert, Marquise de Salisbury, crimson ; Corallina, Madame Abel Chatenay, Gloire de Dijon, Alister Stella Gray.

Ordinary Standards.—In growing standard Roses it is most important to select suitable sorts. The following are reliable :



THE BEST WHITE ROSE—FRAU KARL DRUSCHKI.

Fisher Holmes, Dean Hole, La France, Mrs. John Laing, Caroline Testout, Frau Karl Druschki, Ulrich Brunner, La Tosca, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Duke of Edinburgh, Enchantress, Lady Ash-town, Hugh Dickson, Grace Darling, Général Jacqueminot.

ROSES FOR HEDGES

For a High Hedge.—Conrad F. Meyer, Mrs. Anthony Waterer, crimson ; Mercedes, flesh pink ; Dundee Rambler, white ; Flora McIvor, Sweet Brier, white and rose ; Anne of Geierstein, Sweet Brier, crimson and rose.

For a Dwarf Hedge.—Common China, pink. Sweet Brier, pink ; Stanwell Perpetual, pale pink ; Fellenberg, rose.



STANDARDS OF ROSE CAROLINE TESTOUT.

Good Buttonhole Roses are Madame Falcot, apricot ; W. A. Richardson, rich yellow ; Gustave Regis, buff yellow ; Liberty, bright crimson ; Anna Chartron, cream and rose ; Souvenir de Catherine Guillot, orange carmine shades.

Suitable Roses for Town and Suburb.—Caroline Testout, La France, Mrs. John Laing, Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Abel Chatenay, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Hugh Dickson, Madame Jules Grolez, Captain Hayward, La Tosca, Ulrich Brunner, Madame Ravary, the Japanese *Rosa rugosa*, rose, and its white variety.

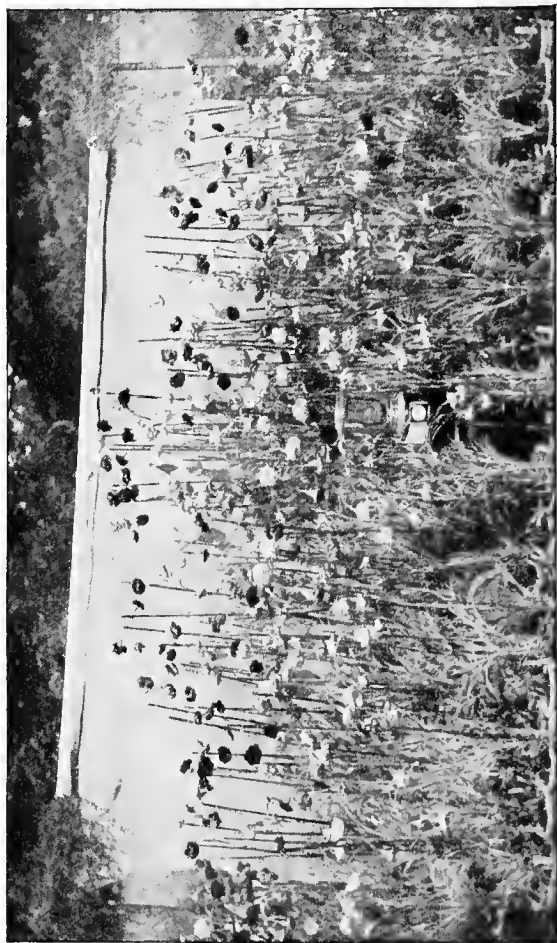
Practically all the climbing Roses will succeed in suburban districts.

CARNATIONS

Give the Carnation a loamy soil of fair quality (avoiding clayey or gravelly soils) and an open, sunny situation, and you have the chief essentials to success. To start a collection of Carnations it is best to buy the plants in small pots in March and plant them out towards the end of that month in soil that has been well dug but not heavily manured. Having, say, a dozen plants it is an easy matter to increase one's stock. This is accomplished by the process known as layering, which is far simpler than it sounds. As the flower stems develop the growths at the base of the plant make rapid progress, and by the end of July are ready for layering. Having cut away the flower stem so that the young shoots may be spread out more easily, it is wise, though not absolutely essential, to remove some of the surface soil and replace with sifted sandy soil, making a little mound of this round about the old plant. Select a number of sturdy, short jointed growths and strip off the lower leaves. As many good shoots as are available may be layered. A slit is made in the stem of each growth some 4 or 5 inches from the apex upon that part from which the leaves were removed. The knife (which should be sharp) is inserted just below a joint, and as soon as the centre of the stem is reached the cut is continued in an upward direction through the joint; the result is the formation of a "tongue." The object of the worker is to place the cut stem in the mound of sandy soil with the tongue away from the stem proper. This becomes an easy matter with a little practice. A hairpin or small wooden peg is used to keep the shoot firmly embedded in the soil, being placed over the stem just below the cut ; when pressed into the ground it helps to keep the tongue open.

Increasing One's Stock.—The work is completed by thoroughly covering the cut part of the stem with soil, even the peg being hidden. If the weather is hot and dry, the layers should be sprinkled with water every evening to keep the soil moist and induce roots to form quickly. Each plant will probably give at least half a dozen layers, and beginning the season with twelve plants one may have quite a nice little collection by autumn.

By the first week in October the layers ought to be fairly well



PRIZE CARNATIONS GROWN IN A SUSSEX GARDEN.

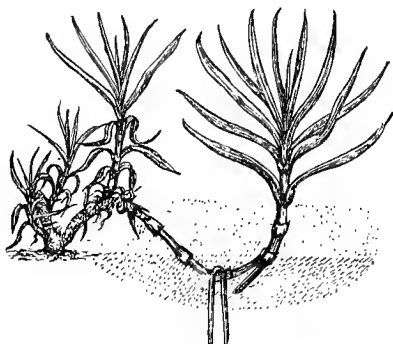
rooted, then three courses are open in dealing with them. One may leave the little plants to bloom just as they are (and this is an excellent way of getting a big supply of flowers); take them up, potting each into a pot $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 inches in diameter, keeping them in a cold frame during the winter and planting out in March; or take up the layers and plant them directly in the bed or border where they are to bloom. When one has to deal with cold and heavy soil the safest plan is to pot up the plants and winter them in the frame. Carnations need careful staking, or their appearance will be spoilt; the wire coil stakes, which do away with the necessity for tying, are admirable.

Carnations from Seed.

— Carnations are easily raised from seed, and this is a fascinating way of growing them. If good seed is purchased, quite 70 per cent. or 80 per cent. of double flowers will be produced and a great variety of colouring, while there is always the chance that something good may turn up among them. Should

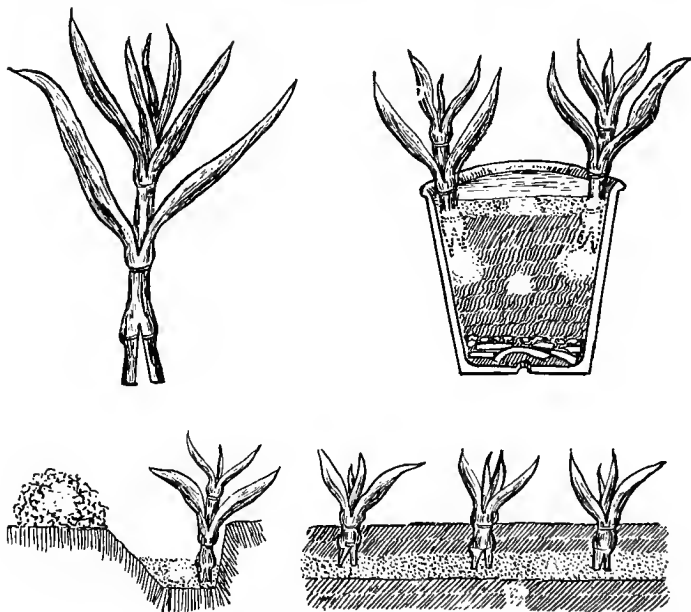
a really good variety appear then it must be increased by means of layering. Seed is sown in April in boxes of sandy sifted soil placed in a frame or shady spot out of doors. As soon as the seedlings are 1 inch or so high they may either be transplanted into other boxes, of course giving them more room, or, if one's time for gardening is limited, they can be planted directly in a sunny border previously prepared by digging. Here, at 12 inches apart, they may remain until September; towards the end of this month they are planted in the bed or border where they are to flower. Anyone possessing a heated greenhouse should sow the seed in February, when even finer plants will be obtained.

The Best Varieties.—Agnes Sorrel, maroon with purple margin; Anne Boleyn, salmon; Benbow, buff; Bendigo, purplish blue; Heather Bell, yellow with rose edge; Lady Hermione, salmon pink; Lady Hindlip, crimson scarlet; George Maquay, white; Mrs. Eric Hambro, white; Mrs. Nicholson, pink; Isinglass, scarlet; Dundee Scarlet, rich bright red; Duchess of Fife, pink; Old Clove, crimson; Mrs. Kearley, rose pink; Raby Castle, rich pink; Sundridge, scarlet; Mephisto and Uriah Pike, dark crimson; Comet, crimson; Hildegard and Trojan, white; The Cid, yellow ground Picotee; Goldfinder, apricot shade.



HOW CARNATIONS ARE LAYERED.

Pinks.—The common white Pink and the variety Mrs. Sinkins are among the most charming flowers a little garden can possess. They are unsurpassed as edging plants, both in summer, when their leaves are smothered in blossom, and at all other times of the year owing to the quiet beauty of the grey foliage. Pinks thrive best in a well drained soil ; a light soil is preferable to a heavy one ; in clayey soil they often perish during winter. They are commonly increased by pipings or cuttings, taken in late June or early July, and inserted



SHOWING HOW PINK CUTTINGS ARE PREPARED AND INSERTED.

in sandy soil under a handlight out of doors in a shady place. A simple and quite satisfactory method of raising a stock of Pinks is to divide the old plants in late September or early October, and replant the pieces, taking care to make the soil firm about them. Those known as seedling or garden Pinks are also valuable plants. They give a profusion of blossom on long stalks, are most fragrant, and variously coloured. Seed is sown in May to produce flowers the next summer, and the seedlings may be treated as advised for Carnations. The Indian or Chinese Pink is a brilliant hardy annual, and seed is sown where the plants are to bloom.

HOW VIOLETS ARE GROWN

From the middle of September to the following May, amateurs may gather Violet blooms if they possess a few frames and good clumps of plants. Without the latter the best frame that can be made, and the best soil, will not avail much. The following hints on the layering of the runners, and their treatment generally, will be of service to those who wish to be successful in the cultivation of this fragrant little flower. There are two important points in connection with the growing of Violets to which I wish to draw attention, namely, the removal of all runners from the time the plants are placed in the frames in autumn until, at the earliest, the first week in April. After that date runners should be allowed to grow for the purpose of layering. In the summer time all flower buds which show must be



HOW VIOLETS ARE LAYERED : FIG. 1.

pinched off until the time for lifting comes. The removal of the runners, in winter induces free flowering; and pinching off the flower buds in summer enables the plants to grow to a good size and so be in the best condition for bearing blooms while they are in the frames. The best plants are not obtained by allowing all the runners to grow and root as they may in the soil in the frame. If one clump bears from two to four runners the latter will be strong. All others should be cut off. The surface of the soil must be kept open and free from weeds, and water should be given when necessary.

Layering.—Mix together some sifted loamy soil and half decayed leaves in equal proportions, and add some coarse sand or road grit to make it porous. Keep this prepared compost in a shaded place to prevent its getting too dry, if it is not used as soon as mixed. At least a double handful of it should be used for each layer. Fig. 1 shows how the work of layering should be done: A, the parent plant; B, a prepared layer pegged down in the new



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

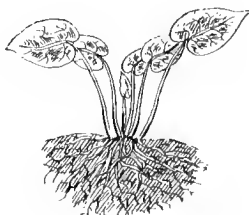


FIG. 4.

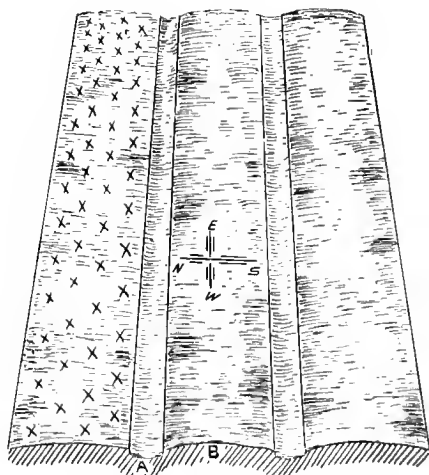


FIG. 5.

LAYERING AND PLANTING VIOLETS.

compost ; C, another layer being prepared by cutting off the stem, as shown by the dark line, just beyond the roots which are commencing to form. Fig. 2 shows a layer held in position by a flat stone in place of a peg as shown in Fig. 3. By putting a stone on the layer the soil is maintained in a moist condition even while the sun shines brightly, and early formation of roots is thus ensured. Fig. 4 shows a layer sufficiently rooted to be taken up for planting in a prepared border. During the time the layers are rooting in the frame they are making steady growth, and in order to obtain sturdy specimens for planting out, the large leaves of the parent plants must be put on one side so that they do not unduly overshadow the runners. When it is necessary to apply water, use a fine rosed watering can, then the compost will not be displaced.

Planting the Layers in Open Borders.—The position for the plants during the summer must be a matter for due consideration ; and the nature of the soil should be taken into account. If it be of a very light, sandy nature, a north-west aspect is the most suitable. On the other hand, if it be very clayey, a south-west aspect is best ; but for ordinary soils a west aspect will answer the purpose. This is shown in Fig. 5, where the beds are formed from east to west.

Violets thrive best in a deep, well trenched soil in which a fair amount of rotted manure and some wood ash or other burnt garden refuse has been mixed. They do not appreciate a hard rooting medium, and unnecessary trampling on the border must be avoided after the plants are put in. In Fig. 5 provision has been made for four rows of plants in a bed 5 feet wide ; but the varieties planted in such a border should be those similar in habit to Marie Louise, which has leaves of moderate size. Larger growing sorts, of which Princess of Wales is one, should have more space, so that three rows of plants will be sufficient in a bed 5 feet wide. By providing alleys about 15 inches wide between the beds there will not be any necessity for placing a foot on the soil around the plants in the summer. The alleys are shown at A and the beds at B in Fig. 5. Water the plants regularly in hot weather, and syringe the leaves at 7 o'clock in the evening, thoroughly wetting the under sides ; this will do much towards keeping the plants healthy and vigorous and free from damage by red spider. This insect is a great enemy of the Violet ; I have seen beautiful plants entirely ruined by it during hot, dry spells of weather soon after midsummer. Good varieties of Violets are : *Single*—Princess of Wales, White Czar, Wellsiana, Amiral Avellan, California. *Double*—Neapolitan, Mrs. J. J. Astor, pink shade ; Lady Hume Campbell, lavender and white ; Marie Louise and Comte de Brazza, white.

CHAPTER V

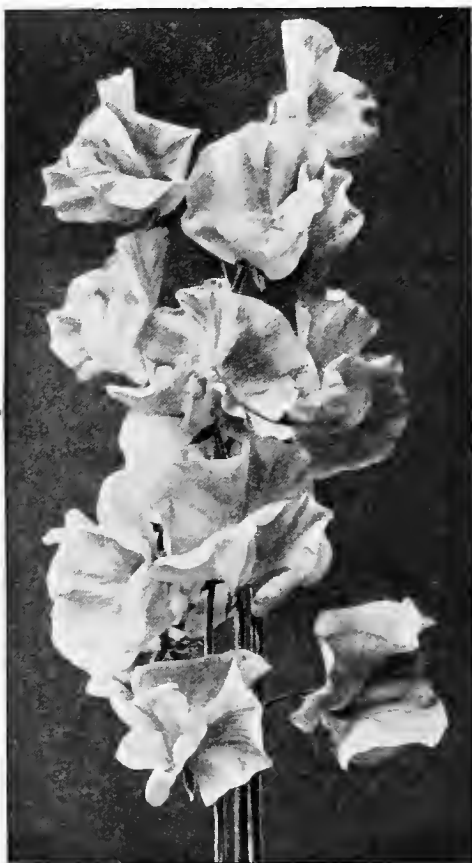
Sweet Peas—Hardy and Half Hardy Annuals

SWEET PEAS are very easy to grow, yet how few grow them well! The reason must be that the care and attention which they demand is more than the average amateur cares to give. And so he misses one of the chief delights of the little garden, for there is no season more enjoyable than Sweet Pea time. To grow Sweet Peas well, that is to have them 6 or 8 feet high or more, and in bloom from early July until October, one must be prepared to take more than ordinary pains with their cultivation. The ground should be either trenched or well dug in November, leaving it in the form of ridges throughout the winter so as to expose a large surface to the weather influences; in early February a layer of decayed farmyard manure may be placed 18 inches below the surface where the seeds are to be sown. This will be appreciated by the plants later on. Seeds are sown in the middle of February, 3 inches deep and, say, 3 inches apart. When the seedlings come up they are thinned out to 6 inches apart or as much more as the grower may think fit. Personally, for average purposes in the little garden I think a distance of 6 inches is sufficient to allow between the plants. I have grown very good Sweet Peas indeed at 6 inches apart.

When the seedlings are 1 inch high, little twiggly sticks should be placed against them to which the tendrils may cling as soon as they form, and they do this quite early. Later on, in May, the final sticks are put in. I know of nothing which looks so well as, or answers the purpose better than, Hazel sticks 8 or 9 feet long. At least 10 or 12 inches should be below the ground so that the sticks may be firm. This will leave, say, 7 feet above ground, and if the Peas cover sticks of this size well they will be most satisfactory. The more completely the sticks are covered the more attractive will be the display, so it is worth while keeping the plants fairly tidy by tying in straggling shoots and cutting off ugly pieces of stick. One can very well attend to such details as these in a little garden, and they repay attention. Of course, I do not mean to say that the sticks should be clipped and cut closely like a Birch broom; that would be an absurd doctrine to preach. Still, the less one sees of the sticks the better.



NEW WAVED SWEET PEA PRINCESS VICTORIA (PINK).



SWEET PEA THE MARQUIS (MAUVE).

Artificial manures need to be applied very carefully. Soot is good and safe, but any of the reliable fertilisers, such as Clay's, guano, and others, are valuable if weak doses are given about once a week when the plants are growing freely. An overdose will cause the buds to turn yellow and fall off. It is important not to allow seed pods to form if a long succession of bloom is wanted; the plants cannot continue to bear flowers and mature seeds at the same time. Therefore all dead and dying blooms must be carefully picked off. It is not worth while to pinch out the tops of Sweet Peas when seeds are sown outdoors in February; they branch out and make excellent plants without this attention.

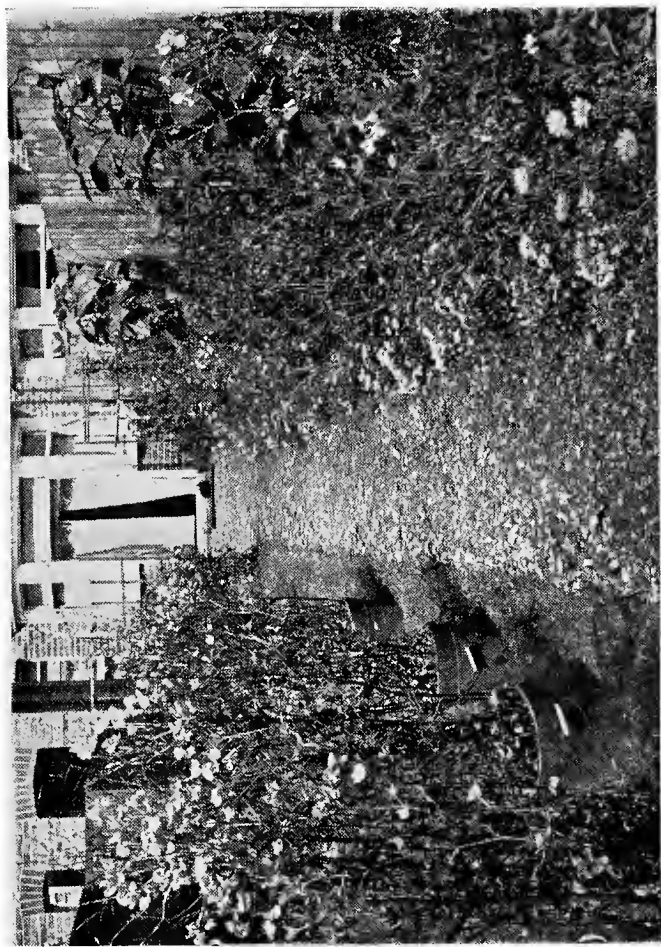
Flowers for Exhibition.—Exhibitors sow the seeds in January, five seeds in a 4½-inch pot or three seeds in a smaller pot in a greenhouse or frame. The little plants are carefully nursed, and subsequently hardened off to be planted out of doors from the middle to the end of April, according to the state of the weather. They are put out in ground that has been trenched 3 feet deep and enriched with manure. Flowers for exhibition are grown in rows and in clumps; if in rows each plant is 12 or 18 inches from its neighbour; if in clumps three potfuls of seedlings, say nine plants, form a clump. The clumps are 6 feet in diameter, and one clump is 5 or 6 feet away from the others. Sweet Peas are commonly grown in rows in little gardens, and very delightful they are. One gets most from a given area of ground in this way, but clumps look extremely well, especially in a mixed flower border. The seeds may be sown in clumps in mid-February; fifteen or twenty seeds might go to each clump, thinning the plants to half that number if it is necessary, so as to allow 6 inches between each seedling. Instead of having a straight row of Sweet Peas one might arrange it in zigzag fashion; this would be a welcome change, and the flowers would look quite as well if not better than when disposed in the stereotyped way.

Autumn sown Sweet Peas are not to be recommended for little gardens unless the soil is of a sandy or gravelly nature, and therefore keeps dry during the winter. In such circumstances autumn sowing would probably be advantageous. However, there is always the danger of the plants "damping off" or falling a prey to slugs during the long, dull winter months; and this danger is especially present on heavy land. I have sown Sweet Peas in early autumn in a little garden, but the majority of the seedlings failed to live through the winter. October is the best month in which to raise autumn sown Sweet Peas; the little plants must be well earthed up as they progress, so that the stems may be protected as much as possible. If seed is sown before October the plants grow fairly tall before Christmas and then are less likely to pass safely through the cold weather than shorter, sturdier plants. If seed is

sown in a greenhouse in November, of course, there is every chance of the seedlings coming through the winter without harm. But then they would have little advantage over those raised from seed sown in the greenhouse in January; they might come into bloom a week or two earlier.

Two or Three Colours Together.—One may obtain some delightful effects by sowing seeds of two or perhaps three different varieties together. At the present time, as I write, I have in my little garden various clumps of Sweet Peas, not all of one kind but each clump containing at least two varieties. If the colours which one intends to associate are carefully chosen the result is most pleasing. For instance, I have together Dorothy Eckford, white, and Queen Alexandra, scarlet red; Mrs. Walter Wright, bright mauve, and Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, primrose; Romolo Piazzi, mauve, and Henry Eckford, apricot shade. The colours of these commingle most harmoniously, and once this method is tried I feel sure it will become an annual practice. Many other colour combinations will suggest themselves. One firm of seed merchants makes a special feature of sending out, in the same packet, two or three different varieties of Sweet Peas, carefully selected with a view to harmonious colour association.

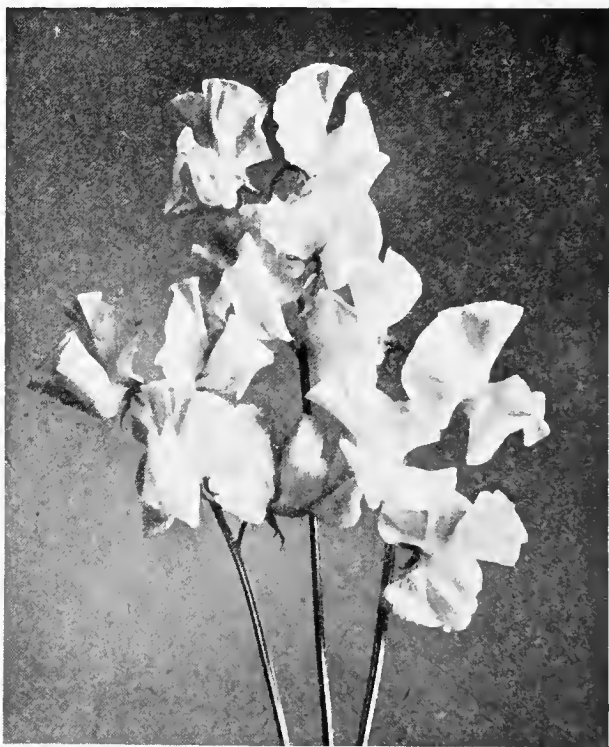
Sweet Peas Grown in Tubs.—When garden ground is strictly limited enthusiastic Sweet Pea growers are glad to make use of any material that comes to hand for the purpose of extending the available area for the cultivation of their favourite flower. One may grow Sweet Peas very well indeed in tubs and large boxes, and although one can hardly expect to cut blooms of exhibition merit from plants grown in this way, they yield a profusion of flowers for home decoration, and, as with Sweet Peas grown in borders, one may cut and cut and come again. I am more than ever convinced that to have really good Sweet Peas in tubs one must sow in the middle of February either in flower pots in a cold frame or directly in the tubs. I have always grown mine in the latter way, chiefly I am afraid because it takes up less time, and not from any belief in its superior virtues. I have used old butter tubs, that are to be had from the grocer for 2s. or 3s. a dozen and answer admirably for at least one season. A coat or two of dark green paint will make them quite presentable. Of course one may obtain specially made ornamental tubs. They are far more handsome and are to be recommended. That proper drainage is essential goes without saying, and to this end three or four holes are burnt in the bottom of the tub with a red hot poker. Over each hole a crock or piece of broken flower pot is placed to preserve the drainage holes intact, and further crocks are placed round about them, to make a thin layer. Upon the crocks are placed rough pieces of turf, and then the tub is filled to within 1 inch of the rim with prepared soil. I find nothing better than turfy soil, with which decayed farmyard manure is mixed at the rate of 3 parts of soil to 1 part of manure. Perhaps



SWEET PEAS IN TUBS IN A SUBURBAN GARDEN.

the most important thing about the preparation of the tubs is to make the soil firm. If it is at all loose the Sweet Peas will be thoroughly unsatisfactory. They will make poor, weak growth, and their season of blossoming will be short.

†The chief things to make a note of are: 1, to have the tubs



SWEET PEA BOBBIE K. (APPLE BLOSSOM COLOUR).

efficiently drained; 2, to use 3 parts of rough turfy soil and 1 part of manure; 3, to make the soil firm though not hard; and 4, to sow the seeds not later than the middle of February. Rough wooden boxes do just as well as tubs if the latter, which are certainly more ornamental, cannot be had. I make a practice of sowing the seeds about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and 2 inches apart, subsequently

thinning out the young plants to 3 inches apart. Naturally they do not make such vigorous growth as those grown out of doors in well tilled ground ; but I have had them 6 or 8 feet high even with ordinary attention. For those whose gardens are in or near towns there can be nothing more delightful than the cultivation of Sweet Peas in tubs. When in full bloom the plants make a most attractive display and excite keen admiration, and a firm resolve to do likewise another season from all gardening friends who see them. I grow my Sweet Peas in tubs along the garden path, for the reason that I have no room elsewhere for them, and a more charming avenue of blossom throughout July it would be difficult to imagine. When sparrows become troublesome, and this they are almost certain to do when the tender seedlings show green above the ground, it is necessary to scare them away by means of black thread stretched tightly across the tubs. If carefully done this will keep them off effectually. Little or no water is needed by the young Sweet Peas until perhaps the middle of April, although of course much depends on the weather. The point is not to give much water until they are well rooted. During the summer months the soil in the tubs gets dry very quickly, and it is most necessary then that the roots shall not suffer from want of water. The soil may need watering twice a day on hot summer days. Picking off the dead blossoms so as to prolong the flower display is even more important with plants grown in tubs than in borders, for the roots have not much nourishment to call upon to support any extra strain such as is enforced by developing seeds. As to varieties—well, any of the vigorous growing and free blooming sorts are suitable.

THE BEST SWEET PEAS

White.—Etta Dyke, Dorothy Eckford, Nora Unwin.

Blush.—Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes.

Red and Crimson.—King Edward VII., Queen Alexandra, Coccinea.

Rose and Carmine Shades.—John Ingman.

Pink.—Countess Spencer, Audrey Crier, Bolton's Pink, Paradise, Gladys Unwin, Princess Victoria, Bobbie K.

Blue Shades.—Lord Nelson, Brilliant Blue, Navy Blue, David R. Williamson, Romolo Piazzani, A. J. Cook.

Lavender.—Lady G. Hamilton, Frank Dolby.

Mauve.—Mrs. Walter Wright, The Marquis.

Orange Shades.—St. George, Evelyn Byatt, Henry Eckford, Miss Willmott, Helen Lewis.

Primrose Shades.—Clara Curtis, Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, Mrs. Collier Dora Breadmore.

Purple Shades.—Horace J. Wright, Duke of Westminster.

Maroon.—Black Knight, Othello, Black Michael.

Among the fancy varieties, the following may be recommended :

America, red and white; Jeannie Gordon, distinct rose and white; Helen Pierce, marbled blue and white; Gracie Greenwood, Queen of Spain, and Sybil Eckford, various soft shades of buff and rose; Phenomenal, Lottie Eckford, and Evelyn Hemus, picotee edged; Princess of Wales and Marbled Blue, striped and flaked.

Many new varieties are exhibited and put into commerce every year; the above list may be taken as consisting of those of proved merit.

HARDY AND HALF HARDY ANNUALS

Hardy annuals are most useful flowers for the little garden, for they come into bloom in about three months from seed sown out of doors. Common examples of hardy annuals are Candytuft, Mignonette, and Shirley Poppies. Seed is sown from the middle of March to the end of April if a succession of bloom is wanted. If one wishes to have a brilliant display, at one time, rather than a less gorgeous show over a longer period, seed may be sown in the middle of March to have the plants in bloom by the middle of July. From seed put in towards the end of April, the plants would not be at their best until late July and early August. Thus it is a simple matter to have the plants in bloom at a given date. Most people fail to grow annuals well because the seeds are sown far too thickly and the seedlings are not thinned out properly.

Most annuals would be seen at their best some 6 or 9 inches from each other, yet how seldom do they get half this space in which to grow! The reward would be found in more vigorous plants that would give finer flowers throughout a longer period. With many hardy annuals I have obtained the best results by sowing the seed in a cold frame in March, thinning out the seedlings and growing them on until between 1 inch and 2 inches tall. Then they are carefully taken up without damaging the roots to any appreciable extent, and put out in the border where they are to bloom. Thus they make rapid progress. Naturally in replanting them one gives each plenty of room in which to develop. It is astonishing how most annuals will spread out and make bushy little plants if only they have room enough. When this is the case they grow sturdy and strong, and give far greater satisfaction than twice the number of plants on the same area would do. It is as well to know that a few hardy annuals resent disturbance at the root, and to attempt to transplant them is to court failure in their cultivation. Perhaps the two most notable examples are

Mignonette and Poppies.—Both should be sown where they are to flower. In fact, this plan is adopted with most hardy annuals. I simply recommend the alternative scheme of raising them in a frame or on a reserve border as practicable in a little garden, and likely to prevent overcrowding. A little care in transplanting the seedlings is all that is necessary to ensure success. On more than one occasion, when, having taken possession of a new garden so late in



A BEAUTIFUL HARDY ANNUAL. (GODETIA DUCHESS OF FIFE).

spring that I had no chance of planting perennials, I have raised hundreds, probably I might truthfully say thousands, of hardy annual plants in a little frame and in odd corners, transplanting them later on wherever there was space to fill. Some of the best hardy annuals for a little garden are Mignonette, Candytuft in many colours; Sweet Alyssum and Dwarf White Alyssum; Love in a Mist—variety Miss Jekyll is best; Scarlet Flax, brilliant red blooms on slender wiry stems; Rose Mallow, very beautiful, rich rose pink, Mallow like blooms; summer flowering Chrysanthemums, shades of yellow and brown; Larkspur, the rose coloured sort is very attractive; Nasturtiums in great variety; Canary Creeper, Shirley Poppies in variety, Collinsia bicolor, purple and white flowers; Godetia, Helichrysum (so called Everlasting Flower); Virginian Stock, and Sweet Peas.

Half Hardy Annuals.—These are commonly sown in February in boxes of light soil, in a warm greenhouse; the seedlings are gradually hardened off and pricked out into a bed of soil in cold frames, being put out in the borders in May. Half hardy annuals may also be sown out of doors in early May; in this case they will naturally come into bloom later. The practice of these two methods ensures a succession of bloom. Indispensable half hardy annuals are Phlox Drummondii, a charming little plant that blooms throughout a long season, having flowers of various colours; Stocks and Asters, now to be had in great variety; Salpiglossis, of rich and rare shades of colour; African Marigolds, bearing large handsome blooms of orange and yellow shades; French Marigolds, less imposing than the African varieties; and Chinese Asters, of which there are many very beautiful single forms.

Biennials.—Biennials are plants that bloom in the year following that in which seed is sown. Hardy and half hardy annuals die after flowering; some of the plants commonly classed as biennials survive after blossoming, but it is best to discard them and raise a fresh stock from seed. Biennials for flowering out of doors—hardy biennials—are usually raised from seed sown in May, June, and July, either in a cold frame or on a partly shaded border. When the seedlings are 1 inch or 2 inches high they are transplanted, and again as they progress they are given still more room. In September they are put out in the beds or borders where they are to bloom the following year. Common examples of biennials are Foxglove, Sweet William, Canterbury Bell, Forget-me-not.

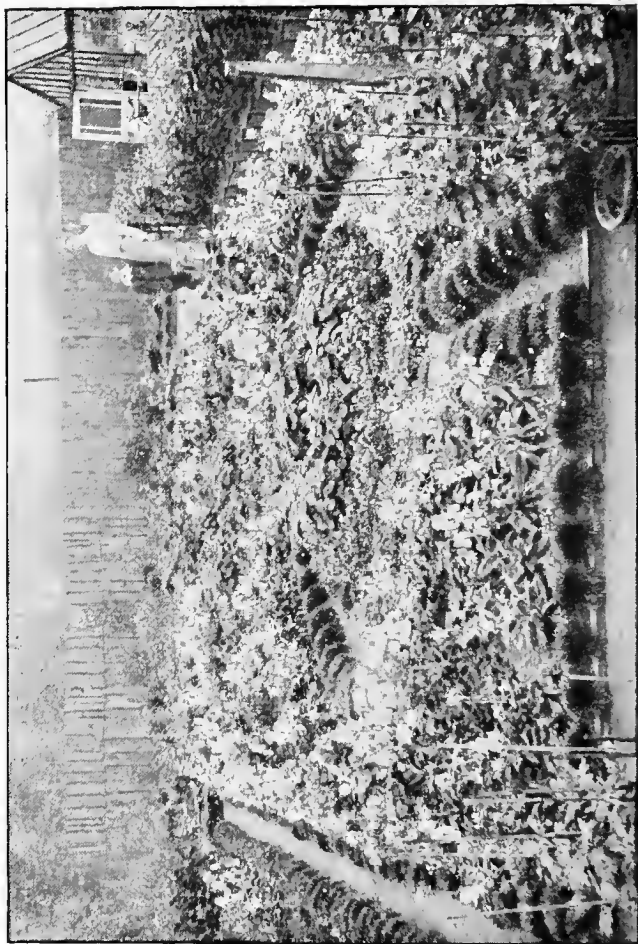
Perennials.—Plants which have rootstocks that live on from year to year, throwing up fresh growths and flowering stems annually, are known as herbaceous perennials. Many of these are raised from seed sown out of doors in June and July. The Lupin and Delphinium are familiar examples.

CHAPTER VI

Half Hardy Flowers for Summer Beds—Flowers of Spring— Chrysanthemums—Beautiful Window Gardens

Geraniums.—Since it is well to insist on the accurate name of a plant, although its wrong name is commonly used, I may state that the Geranium is a hardy plant and several sorts grow wild in Britain. Others are valuable rockery plants. The plant commonly referred to as Geranium is the Zonal Pelargonium, which is half hardy—that is to say, it needs protection in winter. However, Geranium almost everyone calls it, so Geranium it shall be. There are bedding Geraniums and winter flowering Geraniums; varieties that are suitable for bedding out in summer are often valueless for winter flowering in the greenhouse and *vice versa*. Geraniums for summer bedding are easily grown from cuttings taken in August. Plants growing in the flower beds will furnish large quantities. The cuttings are made about 3 to 4 inches long, cut below a joint (the lowest leaves being cut off), and inserted in flower pots 3 inches in diameter (several cuttings in a pot). The pots are filled with sandy soil made firm and, of course, drainage is provided by crocks put in the bottom. The cuttings are placed out of doors—preferably on ashes or a gravel walk so that worms may not enter the soil—and in late September are put in a frame or on a shelf in the greenhouse for the winter. They need very little water indeed until the spring; a dry atmosphere and slight warmth in frosty weather are essential to success. Not only must the surroundings be kept as dry as possible, but all dead and decaying leaves need picking off, for the chief thing to be feared is “damping,” or, in other words, the decay of the leaves and stems. In spring as the weather improves the plants are again placed out of doors to be hardened off for planting out in June. If it is wished still further to increase the stock, cuttings can be taken in spring from those plants rooted in the autumn. Good varieties of bedding Geraniums are Paul Crampel, brilliant scarlet; West Brighton Gem, scarlet, very free flowering; Henry Jacoby Improved, crimson, much freer than the old variety, and Beauty, cerise.

Calceolarias.—These are increased by cuttings inserted in September in a bed of light soil made up in a cold frame. The cuttings are dibbled in some 2 or 3 inches apart, and remain undisturbed throughout the winter. The chief thing to be guarded



A GARDEN FULL OF BLOSSOM.

against is damp, and the same precautions should be taken as with Geraniums. The frame must be kept closed from the time the cuttings are put in until warm weather sets in, say, in March. Then air may be given, and as the weather continues to improve more air is allowed; thus the rooted plants are gradually hardened off for planting out in June.

Violas or Tufted Pansies are charming bedding plants and may be had in great variety. They are readily increased by cuttings taken in July and inserted 4 or 5 inches apart in a bed of leaf mould and sandy soil made up in a frame or under a handlight in a half shady part of the garden. The cuttings need not be disturbed until the following spring, when in late April or early May they are planted out. As far as possible those shoots which originate beneath the soil should be selected, for very often they may be taken off with a few roots. Violas can be grown from seed sown in April and May to bloom the following year. They thrive best in an open sunny situation. Good varieties for bedding purposes are Snowflake and Seagull, white; Primrose Dame and Mrs. Airdrie, pale yellow; Redbraes Yellow and Golden Sovereign, deep yellow; Kitty Bell and Maggie Mott, lavender; Councillor Waters and Archie Grant, purple.

Lobelias.—A favourite flower on account of its brilliant blue colouring, unsurpassed by any other bedding plant. When the old plants have finished blooming in beds and borders they are taken up and put in boxes or pots in a warm greenhouse, receiving little water during winter. In the spring plenty of cuttings are available, and these root readily in flower pots filled with sandy soil and kept in the greenhouse. When rooted they are potted off and grown on ready for summer planting after being hardened off. They may be raised from seed sown in a warm glasshouse in February; the little plants will bloom in the summer. Another good method of increasing one's stock of Lobelia is to divide the tufts when they are taken up, pot each piece separately in a small flower pot, and keep them in the greenhouse during winter. They will make good plants by the summer. Mrs. Clibran is a beautiful sort.

Fuchsias are admirable plants for summer bedding; they are less stiff and formal than many used for this purpose; when good standards or plants of pyramid form are planted they are quite striking objects. It is an easy matter to train standard and pyramid Fuchsias, if a good plant is bought in the first place. It must be encouraged to grow quickly, by giving a larger pot as soon as the roots reach the side of the pot in which the plant is growing. It is best to start with a young plant; when the stem is, say, 8 inches high the top is pinched out, with the result that several side shoots form; the uppermost shoot is trained perpendicularly to continue the leader or central shoot, and some of the best placed of the others are selected and tied down in the direction in which they are to grow. The use of a wire frame with the rim beneath the edge of the

flower pot is advisable in order to obtain a symmetrical plant, the young growths being tied out in various directions. Several years elapse before a handsome, pyramidal plant 4 or 5 feet high is obtained; the growth of side shoots is encouraged by pinching off the top of the leading shoot when it is growing freely. Those shoots necessary to the formation of a well balanced and symmetrical plant are retained and secured in position by tying, the others being rubbed off. It is only when the shoots are young and supple that they can be trained properly. Fuchsias are stored in a frostproof place during winter. Pyramid Fuchsias are not planted out in the flower beds; they are grown in pots or tubs, the latter being "plunged" beneath the soil. Thus to all appearance they are actually growing in the bed or border. It is most necessary to pay careful attention to the watering; one must not forget that the plants are in flower pots and need a great deal of water during hot weather. Standard Fuchsias are just as easily grown. When the stem has reached a height of 3 or 4 feet, the point is taken out, side growths subsequently develop, and eventually the head is formed. Scarcely any plant is more easily trained than a Fuchsia; the young and tender shoots are as obedient to a judicious and careful system of stopping and training as a well trained horse is to properly handled reins. Fuchsias are easily increased by cuttings in spring. If the old plants are put in a warm greenhouse and well syringed, plenty of cuttings will soon be available. They root readily in pots filled with sandy soil under a handlight in the greenhouse. Good single varieties are German Empress, Prince of Orange, Rose of Castile, Mrs. Rundell, Heinrich Henkel. Double Fuchsias to be recommended are Rosalie, Madame Bruant, Amie, and Avalanche.

Tuberous Begonias.—These make a gorgeous display in the flower garden, especially if the summer happens to suit them. They delight in cool, moist weather, and then bloom freely from July until frost cuts them down. Innumerable shades of colour are represented from white through yellow, pink, rose, scarlet to crimson. If seed is sown in a warm greenhouse in January, and the seedlings are grown on without a check and hardened off for planting out in June, the Begonias will be in flower in July. After the flowering season, the bulbs or tubers are taken up and kept in boxes covered with soil during the winter in some frostproof shed. When signs of growth are apparent in spring, the stock of plants may be increased by cutting some of the bulbs in two with a sharp knife; there should be at least one shoot to each piece of bulb. In March the tubers are potted up into 48 sized pots ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter) and grown on in the greenhouse ready for bedding out in June. Of course, they must be gradually hardened off before being put out. Some excellent named sorts of bedding Begonias are Lafayette, crimson scarlet; Count Zeppelin, bright crimson; Bertini, orange; Dainty, pure white; Worthiana, orange; Phosphorascens, brilliant scarlet.



A FRONT GARDEN MADE BRIGHT WITH HALF HARDY FLOWERS.

Heliotrope or Cherry Pie.—A favourite plant and one that is often used for summer beds; it is most easily grown. Cuttings are obtained in spring by placing the old plants in a warm, moist greenhouse, and form roots quickly if treated as recommended for Fuchsias. Large pyramid and standard Heliotropes may be grown by carefully stopping and training the shoots when young. During winter the plants need very little water, and are put somewhere in a shed or outhouse or cellar where they are safe from frost.

Dahlias.—Dahlias are extremely valuable plants in late August and September; then they are in full beauty while many flowers are

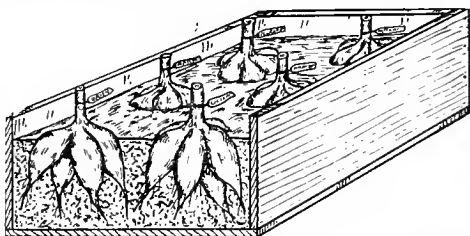


FIG. 1.—The Dahlia tubers partly buried in box containing light soil.

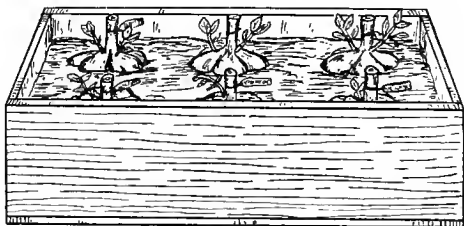


FIG. 2.—If the box is kept in a warm, moist greenhouse cuttings soon appear.

HOW TO GROW DAHLIAS.

on the wane. In starting to grow Dahlias it is best to obtain plants in May, planting them out in good soil towards the end of that month. When frost has cut down the stems and leaves, the tubers are taken up and stored in boxes in a frostproof house or shed; the tubers or roots are covered with soil to prevent their shrivelling. It is usual to start the roots into growth in February, taking off the shoots as cuttings. They make good plants by May. Some gardeners simply plant out the old roots in May; this plan answers well enough if quality of bloom is not a special consideration. Single Dahlias are the most useful of all for cutting and for garden



FIG. 3.

The cuttings may be taken off with a "heel" of old root, as shown here, if only a few are wanted.



FIG. 4.

If quantities of cuttings are required it is best to make this kind of cutting—severing the shoot below a joint and removing the lowest pair of leaves.

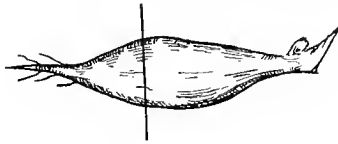


FIG. 6.

Another method of propagation is to divide the old roots as soon as growth begins.

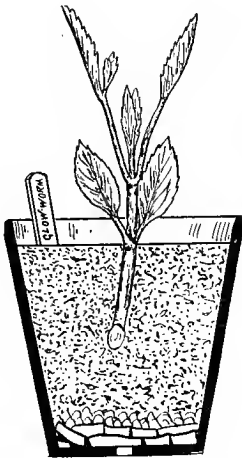


FIG. 5.

A cutting inserted in soil in a small flower pot.

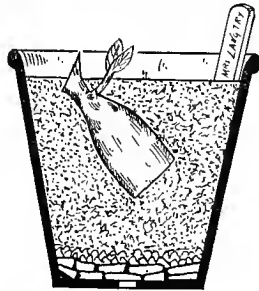


FIG. 7.

Piece of old root with young shoot potted up.

HOW TO GROW DAHLIAS.

decoration. If seeds are sown in a warm greenhouse in January the resulting plants will bloom the same year. The following are good varieties. *Cactus*.—Florence M. Stredwick, white, good form ; Mrs. W. H. Raby, cream ; Ivanhoe, bright straw colour ; Britannia, salmon pink ; Beacon, fiery crimson ; Mrs. Brunton, yellow ; Mrs. J. J. Crowe, canary yellow ; J. W. Wilkinson, rosy crimson ; Eclair, bright orange scarlet. *Show and Fancy*.—Lady Gladys Herbert, pale orange ; Mrs. W. E. Gladstone, blush ; Mrs. G. R. Jefferd, yellow ; John Walker, white ; Willie Garrett, cardinal red. *Pompon*.—Emily Hopper, yellow ; Douglas, deep crimson ; Spitfire, scarlet. *Singles*.—Demon, maroon ; Defiance, scarlet ; Formosa, crimson, gold centre ; Duchess of Westminster, white.

Cockscombs and Celosias.—These flowers were greater favourites formerly than now ; however, they are still much liked by some, and if well grown are certainly striking and handsome. They are raised from seed sown in a warm greenhouse in March ; it is important to keep the plants growing rapidly, and to give them larger pots immediately these become necessary. The secret of success lies in growing the plants without the slightest check ; a hotbed is of great assistance in the cultivation of Cockscombs and Celosias.

Cannas.—Cannas are very showy plants, some having beautifully tinted foliage, while all have brilliant blooms. The old clumps are kept in a heated greenhouse during winter, and in spring when growth commences the rootstocks may be divided into several pieces, each being potted up in a small pot. If grown on under glass each piece will make quite a good plant by bedding out time. Although rather large and vigorous plants when in full growth, Cannas take up little room in winter. When lifted from the flower beds they need neither pots nor boxes ; they are simply packed closely together beneath the greenhouse stages until spring. Varieties : America, bronze foliage, scarlet flowers ; Kronys, yellow ; Lohengrin, orange ; Paul Lorenz, crimson ; Oscar Dannecker, scarlet.

Coleus.—The Coleus is a tender plant with richly coloured leaves ; the flowers of most kinds are valueless from a decorative point of view. Cuttings root very easily indeed in a warm greenhouse in spring, and one may soon work up a stock. Although the Coleus is of greatest value under glass, a few plants give welcome variety in the summer beds.

Verbenas.—There are some beautiful named varieties of Verbena, notably Miss Willmott, rich pink ; King of the Scarlets, red ; Snowdrift, white. All are raised by cuttings taken from old plants which, lifted from the flower beds in the previous autumn, have passed the winter in the greenhouse. Verbenas are easily raised from seed sown in March, and will bloom the same season. That charming old purple Verbena, *venosa*, which flowers until quite late, may also be raised from seed sown in the greenhouse in spring.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

A PRACTICAL EXPLANATION OF THE CHIEF DETAILS

Taking the Cuttings.—January is perhaps the most suitable month for inserting the cuttings when growing the plants for decorative purposes, either for the greenhouse or to provide cut flowers for the rooms. As a week or two will make very little if any difference in the ultimate result, it is better to wait till good cuttings can be obtained rather than put in unsuitable ones, for a good beginning must be made with short, sturdy cuttings. The growths that come up around the base of the stem make the best cuttings. If produced freely so that they are unduly crowded, the long and weak growths must be removed. Do not insert any cuttings from the stems unless the variety is scarce, for stem cuttings do not make good plants, and are liable to produce flower buds during their season of growth. An old, discarded table knife is a very good implement to use for removing the cuttings when it is necessary to sever them below the surface of the soil.



GOOD CHRYSANTHEMUM CUTTINGS.

Frame for the Cuttings.—The amateur who cultivates Chrysanthemums has usually two places available for the cuttings, namely, a handlight in the garden frame and a small portable propagating frame on the stage in the greenhouse. There are several reasons for adopting the latter method, except for the late flowering section. If rooted in the garden frame it may be impossible to look at them for several days, when the frame is covered up as a

protection against frost. If there is a little heat in the greenhouse the cuttings will root more quickly, and are less liable to damp off. The propagating frame should be opened for an hour each morning to dry up the superfluous moisture.

Best Varieties for Amateurs.—As these notes are chiefly intended for readers who grow their plants for home decoration, only

those sorts suitable for this purpose are named. They who require a list of varieties for exhibition cannot do better than visit a Chrysanthemum show, and make a selection of good sorts from the leading prize stands.

October Flowering.—Whites: Lady Selborne, Madame G. Henri, Ivory. Yellows: Soleil d'Octobre, Rycroft Glory, Lizzie Adcock. Pinks and Purples: La Triomphante, Rayonante, Lady-smith (single). Reds and Bronzes: Market Red, Source d'Or, Crimson Source d'Or.

November Flowering.—Whites: Souvenir d'une Petite Amie, Mrs. Ritson, The Princess. Yellows:

Phoebus, Hon. Mrs. Acland, Kimberley. Pinks and Purples: Vivand Morel, Emily Wells (single), W. G. Drover (Anemone). Reds and Bronzes: Charles Davis, Belle of Weybridge, John Shrimpton.

December Flowering.—Whites: Niveus, Nellie Pockett, Earlswood Beauty (single). Yellows: Mrs. Greenfield, Cheltoni, Victoria (single). Pinks and Purples: Madame G. Debrie, Mrs. Barkley, N.C.S. Jubilee. Reds and Bronzes: Tokio, Val d'Andorre, Crimson Gem (single).



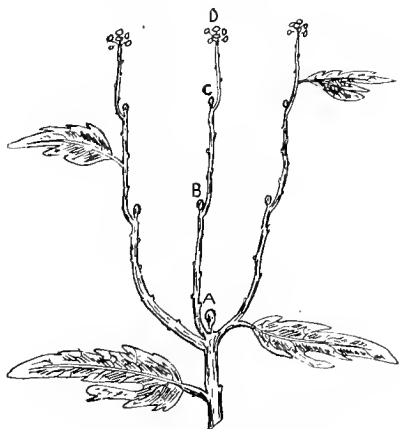
BAD CHRYSANTHEMUM CUTTINGS.

Taking the Buds.

—Amateurs who are beginners in the cultivation of these plants for show purposes are often puzzled as to the right way to train the plants. The accompanying sketches will make this matter quite plain to them.

At first glance there does not seem to be any distinction between the accompanying sketches. But there is a very big difference, and the results with plants trained in both ways will be quite dissimilar.

1 shows the right way to train the plant, and 2 the wrong way. The difference will be noticed

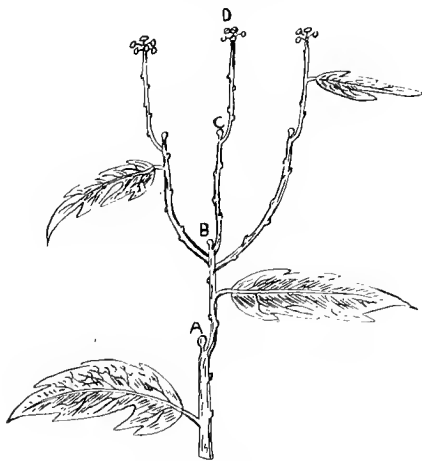


1.—THE RIGHT WAY TO TRAIN CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOOTS.

at A in both of the sketches here shown.

First, I will briefly explain the meaning of 1. The first break bud is shown at A. If this natural break does not occur at

the right time for each particular variety, the tip of the plant must be pinched off in order to cause a break. The bud A must be removed, and the three strongest shoots immediately below it grown on to B. Here a first crown bud forms, but as it occurs about mid-summer it is too early to retain such a bud, so we remove it and take on one strong shoot on each stem to C. The letter C shows second crown buds, and as these generally form during the last three weeks in August—the majority about the



2.—THE WRONG WAY.

middle of the month—the finest blooms are obtained by taking or selecting these buds. If a terminal bud is required the second crown bud at C is rubbed out and more shoots are grown on to D; then the central bud of the cluster of buds there formed gives the desired flower. At A in 2 the first break is shown, and it corresponds with A in 1. But in 2 only one shoot is grown on to B, where the first crown forms, the orthodox three branches being selected and grown on to C, the second crown, and D.

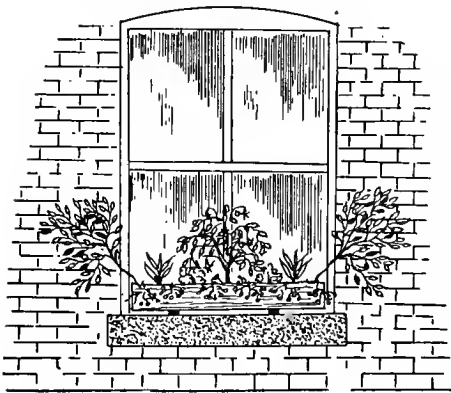
Now this is the wrong way to manage a plant, but many novices follow this course. The second crown buds do not produce such fine flowers as when they are borne on branches grown on right from the first break or stop, which occurs during the latter part of March, throughout April, and also in May.

Therefore, adopt the system shown in 1, and reject the one shown in 2, when you wish to grow cut blooms for exhibition or plants for groups.

BEAUTIFUL WINDOW GARDENS

Those who have only a very small space of ground in which to grow flowers may devote some attention to window boxes, vases, and

tubs, and so have a very charming display of flowers in a limited space. Those who possess a large garden and have plenty of scope for flower culture may add flower boxes on the window sills, where they will form a very pretty supplement to the flower borders. Climbing plants soon work a magic transformation. Even a few alter the appearance of a bare wall for the better. But very often amateurs have not any means of



A WINDOW BOX WITH DWARF PLANTS.

growing climbers through lack of border room; so I am giving a hint here as to how a few climbing plants may be used during the summer months.

The first illustration shows a window box containing dwarf growing and climbing plants. Ivy growing in pots may be used.

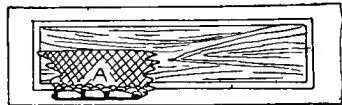
The plants should not be taken out of the pots, but the latter should be plunged in the soil in the box, and the roots allowed to ramble through the drainage hole of the pots. Such plants may be left in position for several years, the boxes being filled with bulbs and spring flowering subjects each autumn. But annual climbers, if preferred, may be used. *Tropaeolum Canariense*, climbing *Nasturtiums*, *Convolvulus*, and similar plants, also *Runner Beans*, may be so grown. Rapid growing kinds of plants should be selected. Stiff, erect growing plants should not be used entirely for window boxes. Several of such may be put in, but there should be others of a graceful habit, such as *Fuchsias*. Then a number of trailing plants, whose shoots will depend from the sides of the boxes, are essential to give a finished appearance to the arrangement.

Zonal *Geraniums*, Ivy-leaved *Geraniums*, white and yellow flowered *Marguerites*, *Petunias* (grand subjects for window boxes), *Verbenas*, *Gazanias*, *Begonias*, *Ageratums*, *Calceolarias*, *Musk*, *Heliotropes*, *Salvia fulgens*, and *Lobelias* all look well in these boxes. *Coleuses* are splendid foliage plants also. Less expensive plants may be used with good effect, and these include *Mignonette*, *Asters*, *Stocks*, *Marigolds* (especially *French Marigolds*), *Phlox Drummondii*, dwarf *Nasturtiums*, *Zinnias*, *Tagetes signata pumila*, *Golden Feather*, and *Matthiola bicornis* (*Night Scented Stock*). Scented leaved *Geraniums* and *Aloysia citriodora* (sweet scented leaved *Verbena*) are favourites. In every case care should be taken not to overcrowd the plants. Give each one ample room to grow in, then the general effect will be enhanced. Window sills generally have a sloping surface, but the boxes placed there must be level, so that the plants in them may be properly watered. If two wooden wedges be placed under each box, as shown in the illustration on p. 102, the perfectly level surface will be obtained.

Preparing the Boxes.—These should be painted on the outside only. Holes should be made in the bottom of the box to allow all surplus water to run away, as shown in the above diagram. Over the holes some crocks should be placed, as shown at A in the sketch. The soil used must be of good quality, because only a small quantity can be put in for the support of many plants. Place some rough pieces of fibrous turf on the drainage material, and then fill up the box with good loam, leaf soil, road grit or sand, and a small quantity of well rotted manure.



HOLES IN BOTTOM OF WINDOW BOX.



CROCKS IN BOTTOM OF WINDOW BOX.

THE FLOWERS OF SPRING

Daffodils.—There are Daffodils and Daffodils—some may be bought for 2s. 6d. per 1,000, others cost guineas a bulb. The last ten years have witnessed a wonderful advance among Daffodils; many new and distinct sorts have been raised, and it has been necessary to found at least one new class. Between the two extreme kinds of Daffodil just mentioned there are many dozens of beautiful sorts to be purchased at quite a moderate cost, and in springtime nothing gives so great a charm to the garden as a few clumps and masses of Daffodils. One should always endeavour to plant them in little or big groups, according to the space at command, avoiding the practice of planting in lines or dotting the bulbs here and there. Daffodils (like most other plants) thrive best in a deep loamy soil, neither unduly heavy nor light. Soil that contains a large percentage of gravel or clay does not grow Daffodils so well. The best months for planting are September and October, but one should remember that the earlier they are planted the more successful they are likely to be. Therefore September should have the preference. Some exhibitors plant their bulbs at the earliest possible moment—in July—and get the finest blooms of all; others defer the work until December, only to be disappointed when flowering time comes round.

When and How to Plant.—Daffodils cannot be planted in the little garden in July, it is true, but there should be no difficulty in getting them in by the end of September or early in October. On land that is light rather than heavy, the bulbs may be put in 4 inches deep: if the soil is somewhat heavy 3 inches will be deep enough. Daffodils in the mixed flower border are somewhat of a nuisance, because one scarcely knows what to do with them after the blooms are over. If they are allowed to remain the foliage is very unsightly, especially when it begins to die down, yet to cut it off is simply to ruin the bulbs. The only other thing to do is to lift the bulbs, and this, I think, is the more satisfactory, although it entails greater labour. I would advise lifting the bulbs when the foliage turns yellow, laying them in a shallow trench, and covering with soil; they may even be laid on a path and covered with ashes. But let them be in the sunshine, not in the shade, so that they may have every opportunity of maturing thoroughly. When the foliage has died down the bulbs may be lifted and cleaned, and stored in bags until planting time. Before they are replanted one should grade them, putting in the flower beds only those that are likely to bloom, planting the others in a reserve border; if there are no available means of “growing them on,” then I am afraid they must be discarded. One often hears complaints that after the first season Daffodils never bloom so well again in a little garden.

Why Daffodils do not Flower.—If the bulbs are taken up annually and treated as described, this disappointment is avoided almost entirely. The absence of flowers is due to poverty of soil, the fact that the bulbs do not ripen thoroughly, and as they become



DAFFODILS ON A GRASSY MOUND.

crowded, fail to develop properly. By lifting the Daffodils one is able to prepare and enrich the soil, detach the small offsets from the parent bulbs and make sure that the latter "ripen." It is generally recognised that it is best not to leave the bulbs undisturbed for more than two or three years, but lifting them every year seems to me to be the most satisfactory plan to adopt in small gardens. They are taken up in time to allow one to plant annuals and various summer flowers. In quite a small garden where there is no room to spare for drying off the bulbs, the best thing to do is to buy a few every year. Some varieties that can be recommended with confidence are Madame de Graaff, white; Emperor, golden yellow; Empress, white and yellow; Golden Spur, clear yellow; Horsfieldi, white



A MASS OF DOUBLE WHITE ARABIS 6 FEET ACROSS.

and yellow; Mrs. J. B. M. Camm, white and cream; Queen of Spain, soft clear yellow; Victoria, white and yellow; William Goldring (Swan's Neck Daffodil), white and sulphur coloured. All the foregoing are Trumpet Daffodils. Among the chalice cupped or Star Narcissi may be recommended Barri conspicuus, yellow with orange scarlet in centre; C. J. Backhouse, yellow with orange in centre; Duchess of Westminster, white with yellow cup; Gloria Mundi, yellow with orange scarlet cup; Beauty, sulphur coloured with orange yellow cup; Flora Wilson, white with orange scarlet cup; Frank Miles, shades of yellow; Minnie Hume, white with canary yellow cup; Sir Watkin, primrose with yellow cup, magnificent sort; Stella, white and yellow. Then there remain the true Pheasant's Eye Daffodils in several varieties.

Tulips.—A similar method of lifting may be followed with Tulips, and if properly carried out will prove satisfactory. The question the amateur must decide for himself is, "Is it worth while



A FRAGRANT TULIP—PRINCE OF AUSTRIA.

to go to all this trouble when I can buy good bulbs so cheaply?" The early flowering Tulips are distinguished by blooms of gorgeous colouring on somewhat short stalks; they come into bloom in late April with the later Daffodils. The Cottage or May flowering

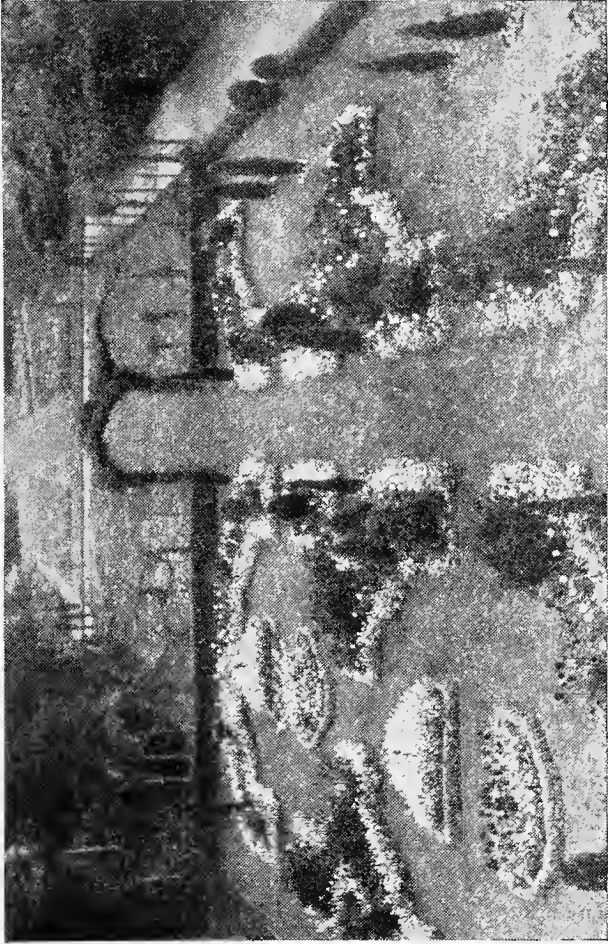
Tulips, as they are called, have long tapering flowers of elegant form and rich and delicate shades of colour on stems quite 18 inches high. The Darwin Tulips, which bloom with the Cottage varieties in late May, have cup shaped flowers on stems 18 to 24 inches long; their soft and often bizarre colouring renders them distinct. Tulips are planted in October and November, 3 or 4 inches deep, according to whether the soil inclines to be heavy or light. Many Tulips prefer the latter kind of soil. Some indispensable sorts are Artus, deep scarlet; Canary Bird, bright yellow; Cottage Maid, rose and white; Kaiser Kroon, red and yellow; Rose Gris de Lin, rose and white; Thomas Moore, rich orange, sweet scented; Prince of Austria, orange scarlet, sweet scented; Yellow Prince, golden yellow, sweet scented; Queen of Whites; Chrysolora, pure yellow; Couleur de Cardinal, crimson scarlet; Proserpine, rich rose.

Among the May flowering or Cottage Tulips the following are a few of the best: Fulgens, scarlet; Gesneriana lutea, yellow; The Sultan, maroon; La Merveille, orange bronze, sweet scented; Picotee, white, with rose margin. Good Darwin Tulips which also flower in May are Clara Butt, salmon rose; La Tulipe Noire, very dark maroon; Isis, rose with blue centre. Any good catalogue will give other varieties.

Hyacinths.—Many handsome varieties of Hyacinth are now offered, but I do not think they are so well suited to little gardens as Tulips and Daffodils. They like a sandy loam but thrive in average garden soil, provided it is not too heavy. A fresh supply must be obtained every autumn in order to make sure of a good display in spring. Plant in October and November about 3 inches deep. Some good double varieties are Empress of India, bright carmine; Charles Dickens, blue purple; Murillo, bright blue; Jaune Suprême, yellow; Czar Nicholas, rose. Excellent single varieties are King of the Blues; Thackeray, mauve; Yellow-hammer, rich yellow; William I., purple; Grand Maître, porcelain blue.

Crocuses and Snowdrops.—These are among the most welcome of all the flowers of spring, since they come the earliest. They cause little bother in the flower border, for their leaves die down in good time. They are rather in the way when the border is dug, and unless care is taken much damage may easily be done in a very short time. They are planted 4 inches deep, not later than September, and preferably in August. They look best in clumps and not in lines. Crocuses and Snowdrops thrive admirably in the grass, even close about the trunks of large trees, but the grass must not be cut until the foliage has died down.

Other Spring Flowering Bulbs.—The Winter Aconite, dainty yellow flower in a frill of green, comes earliest of all; it grows and flowers well in grass and among shrubs that lose their leaves in winter. The blue flowered Squills, *Scilla Sibirica* and *S. bifolia*; Glory of the Snow, *Chionodoxa Luciliae*, blue and white; the Grape Hyacinths, *Muscari*, with spikes of deep blue flowers—



SPRING FLOWERS IN A LITTLE FORMAL GARDEN.

Heavenly Blue is an exquisite sort ; the Crown Imperial, *Fritillaria Imperialis*, with drooping flowers, yellow and reddish, on 2 feet high stems ; the Star of Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum nutans*, with starry white blossoms, useful for filling rough corners and for planting in grass—all these add variety to the small garden and ask little more than to be well planted and left alone, at any rate for several years.

Anemones.—The claw-like roots are planted in October, about 5 inches apart and some 3 inches deep. Anemones dislike a wet and clayey soil. The Scarlet Windflower, *A. fulgens*, is a brilliant blossom coming in late April and May, while the St. Brigid Anemones have large flowers of widely varied colouring, purple, rose, pink, white, etc. When the leaves have turned yellow the roots may be lifted, cleaned, and stored until planting time.

Border Auriculas.—Good seed is the first thing to make sure of in growing Auriculas, for there is a wide difference between good and bad sorts. Border Auriculas dislike a hot, sunny position ; they thrive best in a bed facing north, sheltered by a wall or fence from the south. A moderately heavy loamy soil is suitable. When once established, border Auriculas will last for years, an annual top dressing after flowering being all that is needed. The stock may be increased by dividing the roots in late May or early June. Alpine Auriculas are most suitable for cultivation out of doors. Queen Alexandra, yellow ; and Celtic King, lemon yellow, are two excellent sorts for the border.

Daisies.—Some of the named varieties of Daisy (which, by the bye, will come true from seed) are handsome spring flowering plants with large, richly coloured blooms. The pink Daisy Alice is the most beautiful I know. After Daisies have blossomed they should be taken up and divided like Polyanthuses, the divisions being planted on a cool border. By the end of the summer they will make splendid plants for placing in their flowering quarters.

Forget-me-nots.—These are raised from seed sown in May, and are quite easily grown. All one has to do is to transplant them when they are large enough to handle, grow them on during summer in a not too sunny spot, and in September put them out where they are to bloom. Few flowers are more delightful during April and May. Forget-me-nots produce seed freely, and self sown plants are always to be had.

Polyanthuses and Garden Primroses.—These are favourite plants that everyone likes to grow. Several fine strains are in commerce ; these produce an abundance of good blooms, which are of excellent form and distinct colours. Seed is sown in May and June, and throughout the summer the plants are grown on a shaded border ; they like coolness. In September one plants them where it is intended to have them in flower. Propagation by division after the flowers are over is simple and any specially good sort may be increased in this way.

Wallflowers.—Absolutely indispensable flowers, making the little garden a real delight during April and May, even if it contains nothing else. Great variety of colouring is now found among the Wallflowers, from white to dark red and crimson brown. There are two courses open to those who would grow them—either to obtain the plants in September, putting them out where they are to bloom, or to sow the seed in boxes or on a border outdoors in April. If the latter course is adopted the seedlings must be transplanted when, say, 2 inches high and put out 9 inches apart in well dug soil; in early autumn they are planted in their flowering quarters.

Rock Cress, Alyssum, Pansies, etc.—Rock Cress or Arabis is raised from cuttings taken in June and July; if put in pots filled with sandy soil, the latter being kept in a cold frame or under a handlight, shaded from sunshine, and sprinkled occasionally, they root without difficulty. Pansies or Violas are raised from seed sown in spring, or from cuttings taken in July and August. For a spring display of blossom the old plants are best; they will pass the winter safely in the beds outdoors, and will make a brilliant display while young plants have scarcely a flower. Fuller notes on these and some other spring blooming plants will be found in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VII

Favourite Hardy Border Flowers—Simple Notes on their Cultivation

Aconite or Monkshood, *Aconitum Napellus*.—A well known plant that seems to be declining in popularity. Growing 3 or 4 feet high or more, it bears deep blue flowers in August. Thrives without any special care. The roots are poisonous. A very valuable plant is *A. Wilsoni*; its handsome blue flowers open in September and continue in beauty during October.

Alyssum.—The commonest and most useful perennial Alyssum (persisting from year to year) is the yellow flowered Madwort or Gold Dust, *A. saxatile*, which smothers its greyish leaves with bright yellow blossoms in spring. It is an excellent plant for the rockery, thrives in a dry, sunny spot, and is charming on top of a dry rock ledge over which its flowers may droop. There is a beautiful variety with lemon coloured blooms called *citrinum*. Easily raised from seed sown outdoors in spring. Of the annual Alyssums (those which die after having flowered), the best are Sweet Alyssum and *A. minimum*. The former is well known, and prized for its profusion of white scented flowers; the latter is less generally grown, although it ought to be in every little garden. It makes a spreading tuft not more than 2 or 3 inches high, and is covered with tiny white blossoms throughout the summer. If when these begin to fade they are cut off, a second crop soon follows. Both these Alyssums grow readily from seed sown outdoors in late March or early April; they will be in bloom in July.

Anemone, Japanese.—A most useful and beautiful flower. The plant has a woody rootstock which dislikes being disturbed. It forms a splendid clump if left alone for a few years, and is one of the best plants for a shady border. It is increased by dividing the rootstock in early November. The flower stems reach a height of 3 or 4 feet. The flowers are white or some shade of rose or pink. Lady Charlotte (rose), the old single white, and the variety *rosea* are among the best. This is a splendid plant for a front garden that gets little sun.

Anemones, Other.—The Poppy Anemone is a very showy plant with large flowers in many colours. The claw-like roots are planted in October and again in February for a succession of bloom. From seed sown in a partially shaded border in June, plants are raised that will flower the following spring. It dislikes a very



BEAUTIFUL BORDERS OF HARDY FLOWERS.

heavy soil. Ordinary garden soil suits if well manured. Other Anemones worth growing are the following: The Wood Anemone, white flowers in April, easily grown in light soil in partial shade; suitable for rock garden. The Scarlet Windflower, *A. fulgens*, most brilliant of all, though not quite so easy to grow as some; needs a well drained soil. The Pasque Flower, *A. pulsatilla*, a flower of unique charm; the purple, silky blooms are very beautiful; when



THE JAPANESE ANEMONE.

grown among hardy ferns an admirable picture results: the Anemone blooms as the ferns begin to grow; suitable for the rock garden in a position facing west. The common Hepatica (with blue, red, or white flowers); the Grecian Windflower, *A. blanda*; the blue Apennine Windflower, *A. Apennina*, and the Snowdrop Anemone, *A. sylvestris*, a graceful white flower on stems some 10 inches high, are others well worth growing in little gardens.

Aquilegia or Columbine. — A favourite flower, invaluable for cutting; raised from seed sown in May.

Quite easy to grow in fair border soil, and likes a half shady spot. A packet of mixed seed will give quite a remarkable variety of colouring.

Arabis or Rock Cress. — What would the little garden, and especially the little rock garden, do without the flower laden tufts of white Rock Cress (*Arabis albida*), and still more showy purple Rock Cress (*Aubrietia*)? The double variety of the former is far better than the single, and some of the newer forms of *Aubrietia* (notably *Leichtlini*, *Prichard's A1*, and *Dr. Mules*) are more richly

coloured than the old sorts. The white Rock Cress may be grown from cuttings with the greatest ease. I have taken cuttings in late June, placing them in a shady border, and in a few months' time each plant covered 1 square foot of space, while the following spring they were masses of bloom. The purple Rock Cress is also increased by cuttings in June; these are dibbled in sandy soil in a shady spot and covered with a handlight.

Bee Balm, *Monarda didyma*.—A delightful old fashioned plant that makes spreading tufts of scented foliage from which, in early summer, rise the flowering stems 3 or 4 feet high. The blooms are red, and, though not so showy as some, they last well and have a quaint beauty that proves most attractive. The Bee Balm (it is well named, by the way, for the bees have an especial fondness for the flowers, and the Balm-like fragrance of the leaves is most pronounced) thrives anywhere in the garden except in the shadiest spots. It spreads rapidly and at least every three or four years the tufts need dividing.

Bellflower or Campanula.—The most useful Bellflowers for the borders of the little garden are the Peach leaved (*Campanula persicifolia*) and its white variety. They come up year after year, soon making good clumps; when these become crowded they should be divided, replanting the outside pieces and discarding those from the centre. The broad leaved Bellflower (*C. latifolia*) is a British plant. I have found it growing wild in dense woods. It grows 3 or 4 feet high, bearing blue, bell shaped flowers. Most useful for odd shady corners where little else will grow. *C. Medium* is the Canterbury Bell (see p. 116). There are many beautiful dwarf growing Bellflowers suitable for the rock garden or front of the flower border, but the beginner will do well to try the others first. The Chimney Bellflower (*C. pyramidalis*) is particularly handsome; more often grown in the greenhouse than out of doors. Seed is sown in July to produce plants that will bloom the next summer.

Candytuft.—An old fashioned flower that everyone likes to grow. The best of the perennial kinds—those that form an ever-green carpet of leafage and bloom year after year—are *Iberis sempervirens* and *I. garreuxiana*. They make an excellent edging to walks, and may be relied upon to cover a rock face with a curtain of leaf and flower if planted in good soil behind the top of the rock. When covered with their pure white blossom in April and May there are few plants more beautiful to look upon. Cuttings taken after the flowers are over are not difficult to root in sandy soil in a shaded frame. The annual Candytufts (raised from seed sown outdoors in March) are quite indispensable. Few plants give such a brilliant display in return for such a small outlay and so little trouble. They are to be had in great variety of colouring; red, white, purple, carmine, rose, etc. I think the carmine shade is particularly showy. From seed sown in March the plants will bloom in July. Invaluable as a summer edging to borders.

Canterbury Bells.—These are favourite border flowers with large bell-like blooms in pink, white, purple, and other shades. Seed is sown in a frame or out of doors on a sheltered border in April. In September the seedling plants are finally put in the positions where they are to bloom after being properly transplanted and grown on during the summer. Some of them may be potted up in the autumn and kept in a cold frame throughout winter. They are most welcome in the greenhouse, coming into bloom some time before those out of doors.

Chrysanthemums, Early Flowering.—Early flowering or border Chrysanthemums are those that make the garden so gay in September and October, when most other hardy plants are past their best. Then they are most valuable, they bloom profusely, and are indispensable for cutting. To start a collection, a few plants should be bought in May and planted out. They are not fastidious as to soil, but bloom best in an open situation. To increase one's stock cuttings are taken in March; they root quickly in pots of sandy soil in a frame, and make nice little plants for putting out in late May. The old plants may be divided in spring and the divisions will soon re-establish themselves. Varieties: Crimson Marie Masse, crimson and bronze; Blushing Bride, rose; Golden Queen of the Earlies, deep golden yellow; Mytchett White, pure white; O. J. Quintus, lilac pink.

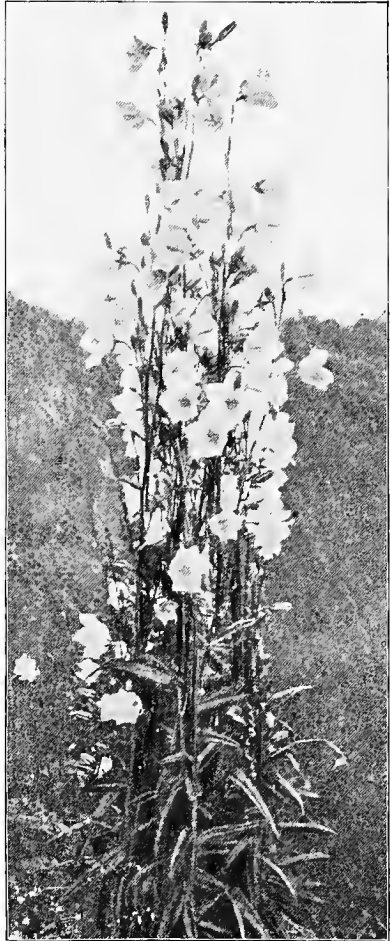
Delphinium or Larkspur.—The perennial Larkspurs or Delphiniums are noble hardy plants, and no flower border can be worthy of the name that does not contain them. They grow readily in any well dug soil that is enriched with top dressings of farmyard manure from time to time. They soon form magnificent clumps; these are best divided about every four years, otherwise the centre of the clump, consisting of the oldest growths, gets bare and unsightly. When the clumps are broken up in the autumn the central part is thrown away, only the outside pieces, the youngest growths, being replanted. During hot summer weather Delphiniums need copious supplies of water when they are well established; if the soil is allowed to become dry growth is stunted and flower spikes are puny. Good varieties are King of Delphiniums, Prince of Naples, Majestic, Sir Trevor Lawrence, and Mark Twain. Annual Larkspurs are charming plants and easily grown. The rose coloured Stock flowered Larkspur is the finest of all, I think, and from seed sown outdoors in March the resulting plants will begin to bloom in July and continue in beauty for weeks together; they produce a long succession of flowers. As soon as the main stem has finished blossoming the side growths take up the running.

Gladiolus.—A handsome bulbous plant, the sorts that bloom in late summer being the most generally useful. There is no greater favourite than the scarlet *Gladiolus Gandavensis*, although the many beautiful new crossbred forms lately introduced have eclipsed it somewhat. The bulbs are planted in March, preferably in clumps of six or eight or twelve, in well drained soil and in a fairly open

position. They appreciate a light mulch of manure during hot summer weather. In October or November, after the leaves have withered, the plants are taken up, the soil is shaken off, and they are hung up (bulbs downwards) in a frostproof shed until planting time comes round again. Good varieties are Carlyle, scarlet; Flying Fox, orange red; Lady Montagu, creamy white; Glory of Somerset, crimson; Prince John, maroon; King of Gladioli, scarlet.

Globe Flower or Trollius.—Globe Flowers are excellent plants for shady spots, and they have the merit of not being too common. The flowers are globe shaped until they expand fully, when they may be said to resemble glorified Buttercups. They are to be had in shades of yellow and orange. Globe Flowers prefer a moist soil, and thrive splendidly by the side of a ditch or stream or little pond.

Goat's Rue or Galega.—A rampant growing plant, smothered with pale purple and white Pea-like blossoms in July. It needs plenty of space for development, and is most useful for filling a vacant spot quickly. Quite indifferent to soil, provided it is of moderate quality, and almost indifferent to position. In dense shade the plants are apt to bloom less freely. Galega Hartlandi with pale purple and white flowers is the best. There is a white sort—*officinalis alba*.



THE PEACH LEAVED BELL FLOWER.

Iris, English and Spanish.—The Spanish Iris, with its charming flowers in yellow, white, and blue, on stems some 12 to 18 inches high, is, or should be, one of the sights of the garden in June. It is best to plant the bulbs in October, although they may be put in in March. Like all bulbous plants, they look best in small clumps. A fairly light soil suits them well; they are rarely so happy in heavy soil. The English Iris which blooms in July has larger flowers than the Spanish Iris, and they are even more showy, chiefly of shades of purple and crimson. Some of the varieties are unsurpassed for rich and brilliant colouring. The bulbs are planted in autumn. They are larger than those of the Spanish Iris, and need to be put out 6 inches apart, while the latter will do 4 inches apart. The Japanese Iris is the most beautiful of all, although not so suitable for little gardens as those just mentioned. They love a moist soil, preferably one containing peat; this is not absolutely necessary, but it is suitable chiefly because it remains moist a long time in hot summer weather. A bed made up of loamy soil and peat, on the fringe of a stream or pond in a sunny spot, forms an ideal place for the Japanese Iris.

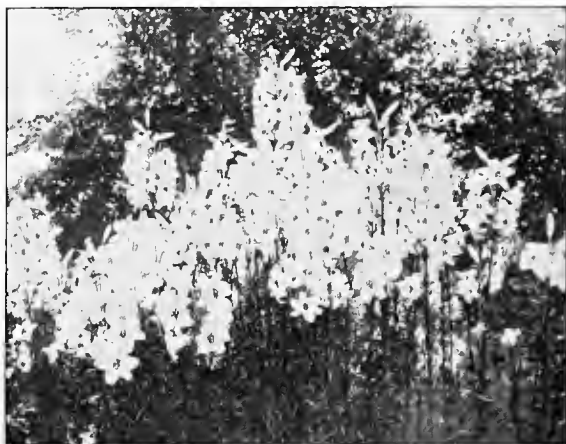
Iris, Flag.—Flag or German Irises (*I. Germanica* varieties) are splendid plants for the little garden. They grow as well in the shade as in the sun, are almost indifferent to the quality of the soil, and are attractive all the year round. Even in winter the greyish green sword shaped leaves afford most welcome relief from the barren monotony around. The common purple kind so largely grown, although handsome enough, is far less beautiful than many others. One may have Flag Irises in many shades of colour, and even a little garden should have some of the named varieties. If one wishes to increase the stock, all that is necessary is to divide the old clumps in October, replanting the pieces. Then they will have time to become established before winter sets in, and will bloom the following spring if the clumps are broken up into fairly large pieces. Her Majesty, rosy pink; Purple King, purple; Sir Walter Scott, bronze; *pallida praecox*, purple and white, and the Florentine Iris are all very beautiful.

Lilies.—Some of the best *Lilium*s for the small garden are the Madonna Lily, *L. candidum*, white; the Orange Lily, *L. croceum*, orange yellow; the Tiger Lily, *L. tigrinum*, yellow with black spots; the Showy Lily, *L. speciosum Kraetzleri*, white, and *L. s. Melpomene*, white and crimson, two beautiful sorts; the Martagon Lily, *L. Martagon*, purplish; White Martagon Lily; the Scarlet Turk's Cap Lily, *L. Chalcedonicum*. These Lilies are very beautiful flowers, and in a fairly light soil, if undisturbed, are not difficult to grow. When planting (which may be done in autumn or early spring) leaf soil and sand should be mixed with the soil immediately around them. In a wet, clayey soil the bulbs are liable to disappear during the winter.



GLADIOLUS FANTAISIE.

Lupin, *Lupinus polyphyllus*.—There are few hardy plants at once so showy and so easily grown as the common perennial Lupin. Any ordinary garden soil suits them, and they ask nothing more than to be well planted and left alone. They grow vigorously and when well established appreciate a mulching of manure in spring; after this has been exposed for a few weeks it may be forked into the soil without difficulty. Various coloured Lupins may be obtained: blue, white, purple, and shades of these. There is a beautiful rose pink Lupin called *polyphyllus roseus* which is worth a place in every little garden. It lasts in bloom for weeks in my border. It is a



MADONNA LILIES IN A WORCESTERSHIRE GARDEN.

comparatively new plant, and at present is not common. The annual Lupins are most useful plants, although they do not grow so tall as the perennial sorts or make such a brave show. Still, they are among the best of the hardy annuals. The Tree Lupin is a magnificent plant, but as it makes quite a big bush in two or three years perhaps it is scarcely suitable for the little garden. The flowers are yellow, and a well grown plant in bloom makes a wonderful display. Easily raised from seed. The Tree Lupin delights in a hot position and dry soil.

Michaelmas Daisy or Aster.—Absolutely indispensable flowers for late summer and autumn. Most of them are vigorous growers and some spread rapidly, becoming almost a nuisance in the small border. The blooms are most useful for cutting. Easily increased by dividing the clumps, a work which becomes necessary

every three or four years. The stronger growing sorts will thrive in the poorest soil and in out of the way corners, and are useful for filling unsightly nooks and waste ground. Not that this is the proper way to grow Michaelmas Daisies, or to accord them the treatment they deserve. Naturally they give only of their best on well tilled ground. Still it is well to know of those plants which will adapt themselves to indifferent conditions, and the vigorous sorts of Michaelmas Daisy are certainly to be reckoned among them.

Phlox.—Most gardens contain a few Phloxes, but how rarely are they seen at their best! Although such a common plant, the Phlox is somewhat arbitrary in its likes and dislikes. It succeeds only when given a rich and well dug soil and a fairly sunny position, and it must be left alone for several years. Nothing is so fatal to the well-being of the Phlox as continual disturbance; in fact, this may be said of many hardy border flowers. How often have we all envied the splendid clumps of this or of that plant in country cottage gardens! If only we would leave our plants alone, instead of digging them up every year or two to transplant into fresh positions, we might have equally fine specimens. The old fashioned sorts of Phlox are altogether eclipsed by the many beautiful varieties raised within the past few years. Phloxes are commonly increased by dividing the old roots and by cuttings. Varieties: *Canadensis* Laphami, clear blue; *King of Purples*, rosy purple; *Mrs. Dalrymple*, pale rose; *Snowdon*, white; *Etna*, vermillion; *Mrs. E. H. Jenkins*, white; *Coquelicot*, orange scarlet; *Eugène Danzanvilliers*, rosy lilac with white eye, very fine.

Pyrethrum.—The Pyrethrum comes into bloom in May, a month in which, curiously enough, there is no great variety of hardy border plants in flower. Then Pyrethrums are so very useful for cutting that every little garden should possess a few plants. They seem to thrive in any well dug soil that is not too heavy and clayey. In the latter kind of soil they are liable to damp off during winter. As much as any plant they appreciate a mulching of manure in spring; this may be forked beneath the surface soil in the course of a few weeks. Pyrethrums are increased by division in spring. Varieties: *Single*—*Agnes Mary Kelway*, rose; *Coccinea*, deep red; *Carmen Sylva*, pale blush. *Double*—*Lord Rosebery*, scarlet; *Virgo*, yellow; *White Aster*, white.

Sweet William.—Considered by most people who love their gardens to be absolutely indispensable border flowers. Sweet Williams are more valuable than ever now, for some charming new sorts have been raised recently. Perhaps the finest of all is *Sutton's Pink Beauty*, a very beautiful flower of rich salmon pink colouring, quite a distinct shade. Sweet Williams are biennials, that is to say, seed is sown one year to produce plants that will bloom the next, and after flowering the plants are thrown away. Thus to have Sweet Williams every year it is necessary either to

sow seed every April or to buy plants in September. Seed is sown outdoors and when the little plants are 1 inch or 2 inches high they are put out in a border, finally, in September, planting where they are to bloom. Sweet Williams like a sunny spot, and any fairly good soil suits them. Like all members of the Carnation family, to which the Sweet Williams belong, a soil through which water passes away readily suits them best. Sweet Williams are easily raised from cuttings taken in July.

Violas and Pansies.—Violas or Tufted Pansies are ideal plants for the small garden. Under proper conditions they bloom throughout the summer and make charming little tufts of leaf and flower. They like a fairly light rich soil and an open sunny spot. They are never so fine in the shade; then the plants become weak and “drawn.” Violas form the most delightful covering for Rose beds. I have tried many things, but Violas give by far the greatest satisfaction. It is true that towards the end of summer they are apt to smother some of the Rose growths, but then it is quite an easy matter to prevent their doing this. Some admirable effects may be gained by a careful association of Roses and Tufted Pansies, paying due regard to the colour of each. For instance, Viola Crimson Bedder beneath and among the white Rose Frau Karl Druschki; or the rich yellow Viola Golden Sovereign with crimson Rose Liberty; or the purple Viola Archie Grant with Rose Madame Ravary of apricot yellow shade, give most striking pictures. A large stock of Violas may be obtained quite easily when one has a few plants. Cuttings are rooted without difficulty. A one light frame in a partly shaded part of the garden is filled to within 6 inches of the top with light sifted soil, consisting of half loamy soil and half leaf soil, sand being freely intermixed. This sifted soil (about 4 inches deep) is placed upon rougher soil, and below this there should be a layer of clinkers, broken bricks, or similar material for drainage. The surface is made smooth and fairly firm, and the cuttings, which are taken in July, are made from side shoots; 3 inches is a suitable length. They are dibbled in the soil about 2 inches apart, and are left in the frames until April, when they may be planted out. The frame is kept closed for a few weeks after the cuttings are put in. However, every morning the moisture should be wiped off the glass coverings. Pansies, those with the big handsome flowers of varied colouring, are raised from seed sown in early summer. The resulting plants will bloom the following year. In the little garden Violas or Tufted Pansies are far more serviceable plants than the large flowered florists’ Pansies, since they last in beauty throughout a much longer period. To my mind they are also more beautiful, especially those of self colouring. A list of varieties is given on p. 93.

Wallflowers, Cheiranthus Cheiri.—Raised from seed sown in April and May to bloom the following spring. Seed is sown thinly outdoors on a shady border or in a frame. The seedlings are put

out on well dug ground in an open position for the summer, and in September are planted in the flowering quarters. There is now a great variety of colouring among the blossoms: primrose, purple,



THE SPRING SNOWFLAKE.

shades of yellow, white, and red. In little gardens it is best perhaps to buy plants in September, although it is far more interesting to raise them from seed oneself. Good varieties of Wallflower are: Singles—Golden Gem, Early Blood Red, Cloth of Gold, and Ruby Gem. Doubles—Old Scottish and Double German.

OTHER HARDY BORDER FLOWERS WELL WORTH GROWING.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Description.</i>	<i>Requirements.</i>
Crown Imperial (<i>Fritillaria Imperialis</i>)	Spring flowering bulbous plant. Drooping flowers, red or yellow, on stems 2½ feet high	Ordinary well dug garden soil. Will thrive in half shade. Dislikes being disturbed
Alkanet (<i>Anchusa</i>)	The Italian Alkanet (flowers deep blue) is best. The finest form is that known as the Dropmore variety. Blooms in August, when blue flowers are scarce 3 to 4 feet high	Seen at its best in good soil, and sunny though rather sheltered spot
Cone Flower (<i>Rudbeckia</i>)	Vigorous plants, useful for back of border. The double yellow called Golden Glow is one of the best. 4 to 5 feet	Quite easily grown. Indifferent to soil, although worth growing well
Chrysanthemum (<i>C. maximum</i>)	Useful July blooming plants bearing large white Marguerite-like flowers freely. King Edward VII. is one of the best sorts. 2 feet	Grown without difficulty in ordinary soil
Christmas Rose (<i>Helleborus niger</i>)	A favourite flower; most welcome since the pure white blooms open in midwinter. 12 to 18 inches	Likes a fairly rich and well drained soil in sheltered position. The Lenten Roses, which bloom later, should be planted among ferns; their flowers and the young fern fronds associate admirably
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis</i>)	Most useful for out of the way corners or any little bit of wild garden. The white Foxglove should be grown with the others. 3 to 4 feet	Raised from seed sown in May or June. The plants will seed themselves if left alone. Thrives best in moist shady spot
Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera</i>)	Evening Primroses are delightful flowers which open fully towards evening. Some are fragrant. Lamarckiana is best for little gardens. 3 to 4 feet	Does well in light soil and half shade
Everlasting Pea (<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>)	A most useful plant, the white variety called White Pearl being especially beautiful. Very free flowering	An easily grown border plant. Soon makes a large specimen if not disturbed. Must be trained on sticks or allowed to cover fence

Name.	Description.	Requirements.
Day Lily (<i>Hemerocallis</i>)	May flowering plant with Lily-like blooms in shades of yellow from tufts of narrow foliage. <i>Flava</i> , <i>fulva</i> , and <i>Dumortieri</i> are of the best. 2½ feet	Good for shady borders. Quite easily grown if not disturbed
Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis</i>)	Charming early summer flowers. Those most commonly grown are <i>dissitiflora</i> and <i>sylvatica</i> . 9 to 12 inches	Forget-me-nots will seed themselves if not disturbed. Otherwise seed is sown in June, putting out the plants in the autumn where they are to bloom
Globe Thistle (<i>Echinops ritro</i>)	Quaint rather than beautiful. The grey leaves are attractive, and the prickly flower heads are blue. A welcome change from the ordinary border plants. 3 feet	Does best in a moderately light soil
Golden Rod (<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>)	Vigorous plant flowering in August; produces a profusion of small yellow blooms. 5 feet	Easily grown. Has practically no likes and dislikes. Valuable plant for back of border
Goat's Beard (<i>Spiraea Aruncus</i>)	A vigorous and handsome border plant bearing splendid tufts of creamy white flowers. 4 to 5 feet	Will thrive in ordinary soil. Does best in deep soil and half shade
Gaillardia	<i>Grandiflora</i> is best for the small garden; bears richly coloured blooms, red and brown, on 2 feet high stems. Useful for cutting	Likes a good well drained soil. Apt to die in winter in heavy soil. Raised from seed sown in February to bloom the same year, or from June sown seed to flower the following season
Gypsophila	Graceful plant with elegant bunches of small white flowers, invaluable for cutting. Much used for arranging with Sweet Peas and other flowers	Grows quite well in ordinary well dug soil. Should not be disturbed, then makes quite a bush
Leopard's Bane (<i>Ornithoglossum plantagineum</i>)	Most valuable, since it blooms in April. Large yellow Marguerite-like flowers on stems 18 to 24 inches high. Harpur Crewe is the finest variety	Grows well in shade. Needs no special attention
Lily of the Valley (<i>Convallaria majalis</i>)	Fontin's variety has larger blooms than the ordinary kind	Does best in a sheltered, shaded spot and rich soil. Appreciates a mulch of manure in spring. The roots are planted 2 inches apart.

Name.	Description.	Requirements.
Lychnis Chalcedonica	Bears bright scarlet flowers in flat bunches on strong leafy stems 2 to 3 feet high. A good border plant	Thrives quite well with ordinary attention
Hollyhock (Althaea rosea)	There are many florists' varieties in great diversity of colouring. The doubles are most satisfactory. A beautiful yellow Hollyhock well worth growing is ficifolia (Fig-leaved)	Hollyhocks like a good soil; in poor land they are stunted. Give them a sunny spot
Honesty (Lunaria biennis)	This plant has a double value: the purplish flowers are very attractive in May, and, as everyone knows, the transparent seed pods are much used for home decoration in winter	Thrives well in poor soil. Easily raised from seed sown in spring, which will produce plants to bloom the next year
Maidenhair, Lady (Thalictrum aditifolium)	A beautiful border plant with masses of elegant fern-like leaves. Invaluable for cutting. 3 feet	Dislikes a heavy soil; otherwise easily grown
Pentstemon	A favourite hardy plant; may be had in great variety of colouring; tube shaped drooping flowers on stems 2½ feet high	Likes a rich well drained soil. Increased by cuttings taken in August, inserted in frame of sandy soil; left there all winter
Plume Poppy (Bocconia cordata)	Vigorous and handsome plant with elegant leaves and long spikes of creamy white flowers. A striking plant. Needs plenty of room. 4 feet	Not fastidious provided the soil is well dug and contains no stagnant moisture
Poppy, Perennial (Papaver Orientale)	A most showy plant with handsome leafage and striking flowers in scarlet and other shades of colour. Makes a grand display	Likes a rich, well drained soil and dislikes being disturbed
Sea Holly (Eryngium Oliverianum)	Distinct, with clear grey leaves and steel blue flower heads. 2 to 3 feet	If planted in rather light soil cultivation is simple
Paeony	Many beautiful varieties now to be had. Any good catalogue will give a selection	Prefers a rich soil. Planted in October. Does well in half shade
Snapdragon (Antirrhinum)	Snapdragons have been much improved during recent years. There are beautiful varieties of different heights.	Seed is sown outdoors in June to get plants to bloom the following year. The Snapdragon loves a dry, sunny spot

Name.	Description.	Requirements.
Spiraea, Abbé David's (S. Davidii)	A striking plant with handsome plumes of rosy purple flowers. Comparatively new	Likes a moist and deep soil
Stoncrop, Japanese (Sedum spectabile)	A useful plant with thick grey leaves and a large flattish head of rose coloured blooms. Flowers in August and September. Variety atro-purpurea is the best	Likes a sunny spot and well drained soil. Most effective in small clumps
Sunflower (Helianthus)	Of the small flowered Sunflowers (which are best for small gardens) Miss Mellish, decapetalus, multiflorus, all having yellow blooms, are to be recommended. 5 feet high	Thrives even in poor soil. In fact, in small gardens it is best to plant them in poor soil or they grow too vigorously
Tickseed (Coreopsis)	The best for little gardens are lanceolata, tinctoria, and grandiflora. The latter is raised from seed every year. Very useful for cutting and bright in the border. Shades of yellow. 2 to 2½ feet	Grows and flowers well in ordinary soil. Likes a sunny spot
Avens (Geum)	Several sorts are useful border plants. Flowers similar in size and form to those of the Strawberry. Chiloense has scarlet blooms; Helldreichi, apricot orange. They bloom for several months. 2 feet	A fairly rich soil suits best. Likes a sunny position

CHAPTER VIII

Shrubs for Little Gardens

BY no means the least important work in the management of a little garden lies in the selection and care of shrubs. Bare walls may be clothed with climbers, unsightly corners hidden by evergreen arbours, whilst the garden generally can be made bright with refreshing flowers. In short, the little garden surrounded by oppressive walls, ugly fences, or untidy borders may be made a source of interest and beauty if the right subjects are chosen. Now the selection of suitable shrubs is in most cases sadly overlooked.

The Monotony of Common Shrubs.—Unfortunately it often happens that shrubs are planted around a new house before the tenant enters. This planting is invariably performed in the orthodox manner, for if Privet is not chosen then it is Aucuba, or failing either of these Laurel or Box. The frequent use of such as these produces a painful monotony of foliage, particularly in suburban districts where, in almost endless numbers, one little garden adjoins another. Even the common Lilac or Laurustinus would provide welcome relief; while the Berberis or the Japanese Quince (*Cydonia Japonica*) would be far more serviceable. Owing to the restricted selection of shrubs generally planted in small gardens, an erroneous impression prevails that only a few are really suitable. That such is altogether wrong may be readily seen by a casual glance through any well ordered public garden. Even in the midst of large towns such shrubs as the Dogwoods (*Cornus* in variety), Purple leaved Hazel (*Corylus*), Jew's Mallow (*Kerria Japonica*), Bush Honeysuckle (*Weigela*) may be seen flourishing, to say nothing of the Rhododendron, which in recent years has made rapid strides in popular favour.

Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.—Shrubs are readily classified into two distinct groups namely, evergreen, *i.e.* those that retain their foliage throughout the winter, and deciduous, *i.e.* those which shed their leaves in the autumn. Although evergreens give a distinct beauty to the garden landscape in winter, they should not be planted too freely, or they produce a sombre effect. Most of the conifers, or cone bearing plants, such as the Yew, Arbor-Vitae, and Cypress, are evergreens. Where space will admit, the Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus Unedo*) forms one of the most handsome of evergreen shrubs. It is quite hardy, in fact it is found growing wild in

some parts of Ireland. Other useful evergreens are the Heaths, Ivies, and Hollies. The Mahonia (*Berberis Aquifolium*), Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), and St. John's Wort (*Hypericum calycinum*), are exceedingly accommodating evergreens in that they are suitable for planting in shady places as undergrowth to large trees; the same may be said of the Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and the common Aucuba. There are a few shrubs, notably Laurustinus and Rhododendron, which possess the double advantage of keeping green throughout the winter and flowering freely in the spring or early summer. There is much to be said in favour of deciduous in preference to evergreen shrubs; although the former are bare in outline during the winter, this defect is more than atoned for by the renewed vigour and fresh appearance assumed in the spring. Charming effects can be obtained by the judicious use of shrubs with coloured foliage; the Golden Elder, the purple Hazel and Maple, are easily grown.

Flowering Shrubs.—For spring use few excel the Golden Bell (*Forsythia suspensa*) and the ornamental varieties of Cherries, Apples, and similar plants. Among the Spiraeas are found some of the most useful deciduous shrubs in cultivation. Early flowering Spiraeas are *Thunbergi*, *arguta*, and *media*; they all bloom between early March and early May. *S. Douglasi* and *S. Japonica* are splendid for later flowering. The Sumachs provide us with some of the most ornamental of shrubs. The Stagshorn Sumach (*Rhus typhina*) is quite picturesque in its growth; the Venetian Sumach (*R. cotinus*) and the American Smoke Tree (*R. cotinoides*) are both commendable for all gardens; the foliage of the latter assumes a brilliant colour in the autumn. Exception may be taken to the Poison Ivy (*R. toxicodendron*), as the leaves of this plant when touched have been known to inflict a serious form of poisoning. It is, therefore, a dangerous subject, particularly for the small garden. A word might here be said in favour of the Flowering Currant; many varieties are now in commerce, but the popular form (*Ribes sanguineum*) continues to hold its own.

Shrubs with Attractive Fruits.—Many deciduous shrubs carry fruits which are very ornamental in the winter months. The Snowberry and the Sea Buckthorn are good examples. The Rocksprays (*Cotoneasters*) produce clusters of orange scarlet berries throughout the winter. *C. microphylla* is the Wall Rockspray; it is an evergreen well suited for covering walls or fences. The Plumed Rockspray (*C. horizontalis*) is of low spreading habit with almost frond-like branches, and if planted in rocky places, or allowed to trail over rough banks, it is quite picturesque. The effect is enhanced by a profusion of bright vermilion berries in the dull time of the year. Many Roses, notably the Japanese Brier (*Rosa rugosa*), are very attractive when in fruit. The Mountain Ash, Siberian Crab, and the numerous Thorns which assume the proportions of trees are exceedingly beautiful in berry and always look cheerful.

A few shrubs are represented in both evergreen and deciduous classes. Such is the case with Magnolias. It is difficult to imagine anything more beautiful than a good specimen plant of the evergreen large flowered Magnolia (*M. grandiflora*) growing up the sunny side of a house. The Yulan (*M. conspicua*) is a deciduous kind; in late April and May it produces an abundance of snowy white flowers. Magnolias should be given sheltered situations.

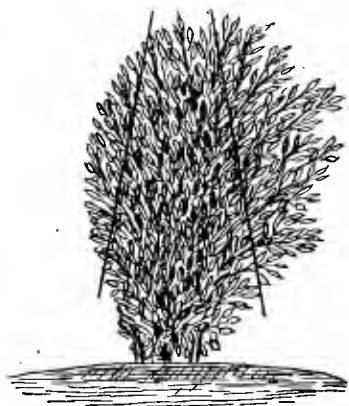
Such plants as Rhododendrons and Azaleas, in fact, all hardy peat loving shrubs, are commonly known as American plants; the term, however, is misleading.

When to Plant Shrubs.—Some plants are seen at their best in isolated positions. This is especially the case with many conifers, and for this reason they should be planted apart from other shrubs. For instance, Lawson's Cypress (*Cupressus Lawsoniana*), which is so handsome as a specimen plant upon the lawn, loses all charm when planted in a mixed shrubbery. The season for planting varies with different kinds of shrubs; as a general rule, however, it is safe to transplant deciduous kinds any time when they are not in leaf, that is to say, between September and March. Autumn planting is preferable. It is best to plant evergreens in early September, or to defer the operation until May, although by taking great care planting may be done between these months. Evergreen Oaks are best transplanted in May, and Hollies in April. The work must not be carried out in frosty weather. Avoid deep planting. A useful guide in planting may be taken from the ground mark, which clearly shows the depth at which the plant was growing previously. Fine soil is worked among the roots at planting time and trodden firmly down. After planting, especially if the soil is at all light or dry, a thorough soaking of water should be given.

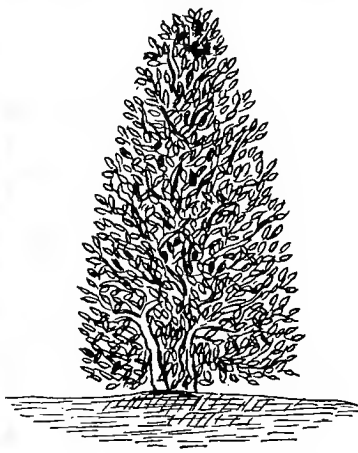
Special Likes and Dislikes.—A few shrubs are particular as to soil. Rhododendrons and allied plants show a dislike to chalky soil. In fact, it is really not worth while trying to grow these plants in soils which contain much lime or chalk. A compost consisting of equal parts of peat and sand suits very well, although Rhododendrons do not object to a good loam, especially if it contains leaf soil. Magnolias, which are best planted in September, prefer a mixture of leaf mould and peat, although they succeed on a deep loam overlying a gravelly subsoil. The Tamarisk and Sea Holly are well suited for seaside gardens, and Willows, of which there are many ornamental and low growing kinds, flourish in wet soils. As shrubs for undergrowth to trees, the low growing St. John's Wort, Periwinkle, and Mahonia, and others to which reference has already been made, are suitable. These are most accommodating plants. If carefully planted most shrubs will soon take care of themselves, but at the same time the influence of soil and situation has a very marked effect upon the results. It is by no means uncommon for a certain shrub, the Mexican Orange (*Choisya ternata*) for example, to flourish in one garden whilst perhaps

a few miles off it is only a success when given the protection of a wall.

Useful Hedges.—Hollies make the finest hedges. The plants should be uniform in size and well furnished to the base. Suitable evergreen hedges may be made by planting Yew or Box, and others with Hornbeam, Beech, and Myrobalan Plum; in fact, any tree or shrub which will stand being frequently cut back and at the same time remain well furnished at the base, will make a useful hedge. The Privet forms a good hedge but it is very common. Thorn and similar hedges are only trimmed up in the spring and summer, all severe cutting back being done in the autumn or winter.



A BADLY TRIMMED HEDGE.



A WELL TRIMMED HEDGE.

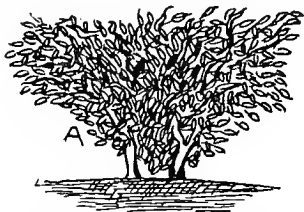
How to Train a Hedge.—A well kept hedge adds considerably to the general appearance of a garden, no matter whether the latter be a flower or a vegetable garden. All hedges of plants with large leaves, such as Laurel, Holly, and Elm, should be cut with a knife so as not to mutilate the large leaves by cutting through them with the blades of a pair of shears. But for small leaved plants such as Thorns and Privets the latter instrument is the better to use.

The first sketch shows the form a hedge will quickly assume if only the points of the shoots are cut off each time. The result will be that the hedge will become unduly broad, bulging out in the centre, thin at the bottom, and weak at the top. Such a fence should be cut as shown by the two long dark lines.

The second sketch shows the section of a well trimmed hedge.

It is thickest near the bottom, as it should be, gracefully tapering to a point at the top. A hedge of this kind is very strong. It does not take up as much room as one similar to that shown in the first illustration, but gives due shelter to garden crops, admitting plenty of sunshine and light, and does not entail much labour in the cutting.

The following sketch shows a hedge with a bad base at A. There is always a cold current of air blowing through a fence of this kind which retards the growth of tender plants near it. Inexperienced persons often cut away the shoots near the base of a hedge because they are, at first, naturally weak there. These basal side shoots



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BAD
HEDGE TRIMMING.

should be gradually brought out to the proper length to form the base, and afterwards kept trimmed so that the bottom of the hedge will be the strongest part of it. Very severe cutting back of Thorn and similar hedges should be done in the autumn and winter time, not in summer.

Pruning.—To keep shrubs in good shape and within bounds it is necessary to prune. Just as the plants vary in manner of growth so also must the pruning vary.

Most of the pruning is done in the winter. A few general rules may be safely followed. In the first place cut out clean to the base all dead wood; thin out, rather than shorten back, all overcrowded shoots, whether weak or strong, and regulate or balance the growth of all robust growing shrubs; to do this it is often necessary to prune very hard.

Differences in Pruning.—As showing the wide difference in the methods of pruning, let a contrast be drawn, for example, between the mode of flowering and the consequent pruning of the Broom (*Cytisus*) and the Wistaria. In the former the flowers are produced throughout the whole length on long graceful shoots, and in the latter they arise from short stunted spurs on the old wood. To attempt to prune back the *Cytisus* in order to form spurs would be to court failure, but with Wistaria spur pruning is best. To shorten the elegant flowering shoots of *Cytisus* would be to destroy its natural beauty. In fact the best thing to do with an established *Cytisus* is to leave it alone. During the first year or so, however, the young plants need cutting back to form a good foundation. Heaths or *Ericas* are also better left unpruned so long as the old flower heads are removed.

Pruning is not entirely a winter operation; it is often advisable to resort to summer pruning. Many shrubs flower on the wood made in the previous year, whilst others bloom on the young wood.

Shrubs which flower on the old wood are usually the first to open in spring, whilst those flowering on the wood made the same year could only do so from midsummer onwards. From such a decided difference in the nature of flowering shrubs, it is obvious that the pruning must vary accordingly. Thus to prune a Golden Bell (*Forsythia*) in early March as one would prune a H.P. Rose would be the height of folly, since the *Forsythia* flowers in spring on last year's wood, whilst the Rose flowers in the summer on the current year's growth.

Now there are many shrubs like the *Forsythia* which need similar treatment ; for example, *Deutzias*, *Lilacs*, and *Weigelas*, and it is in the care of these shrubs that summer pruning should be adopted. The growths of *Mock Orange* and *Spiraea* are thinned out soon after flowering, and the same applies to *Forsythia*. By cutting out the wood which has flowered, the young shoots have a better chance. *Rhododendrons* need very little pruning as a rule ; some varieties, however, are inclined to grow a little too freely, a failing which may be remedied by judicious cutting back in the summer. Pruning should always be done with a well sharpened, strong knife, or in the case of large branches with a small hand saw. *Secateurs* are apt to pinch and bruise the wood, and shears should only be used for clipping hedges.

One must not omit reference to the winter and summer flowering *Jasmines*, *Honeysuckle*, *Clematis Jackmanii*, purple, July and August ; *C. montana*, white, April ; *Yuccas*, *Rosemary*, and *Lavender*. In recent years great interest has centred in the introduction of new flowering shrubs from China. Among the best of these are *Jasminum primulinum*, *Buddleia variabilis*, and a number of ornamental Vines.

CHAPTER IX

Making the Most of a Small Kitchen Garden—Practical Hints Showing How to Ensure a Succession of Vegetables.

Cabbages, Cauliflowers.—Some seeds of the first named should be sown about the middle of August, the plants being put out in their permanent quarters towards the end of September, in firm ground. Then seeds of both are sown in boxes in a greenhouse or frame in February. Early varieties are chosen that the produce may be fit for use early in the year, before it is possible to obtain it from seeds sown in the open border in spring; the plants raised in the open borders will form a good succession. In all cases the seeds are sown thinly, the seedlings being transplanted while they are quite small, so as to obtain sturdy plants possessing plenty of small, fibrous roots. The seedlings should be transplanted from the boxes into other boxes, or a cool frame in spring, prior to their final planting in sheltered borders.

Peas, Dwarf and Runner Beans, Broad Beans, and Spinach.—In light soils, 1 pint of early Peas may be sown in October in a sheltered position. To guard against the ravages of mice and rats, moisten the seeds and then roll them in red lead before sowing them. Cover the surface of the drill with fine ashes to prevent slugs eating the young plants; and draw up small ridges of soil on both sides of the rows as a shelter against cold winds. In November a few Broad Beans may be sown also. At this time as much ground as possible should be deeply dug or trenched; then the soil will be in good condition for the early crops. In February fork up the soil, and the moment it is dry enough sow more Peas and Broad Beans, well mixing manure with the soil. Make the utmost use of the ground at disposal by sowing small quantities of seeds fortnightly, or every three weeks, until the first week in June. It is a mistake to sow the seeds thickly. Where possible, have the rows north and south, not east and west, then the plants will get the maximum amount of sunshine and yield heavy crops. Peas which grow 3 feet high need a space of 3 feet 6 inches between the rows, varieties that grow 5 feet high should be in rows 6 feet apart. Broad Beans are best sown in single lines 18 inches apart and 4 inches from plant to plant in the lines. The space between the rows of Peas is utilised for growing Spinach in single lines. Bury the Peas 2 inches deep, the Broad Beans 3 inches, and the Spinach 1 inch. Thin out the

seedlings of the latter to 4 inches apart when they are 3 inches high, then the leaves will be large and succulent. The first week in May will be quite soon enough to sow the first batch of Dwarf Beans, and a sheltered border should be devoted to this crop. In a more open quarter Runner Beans are sown about the middle of May. If sown too early the plants get checked by cold weather, and the crop is light and not satisfactory. If the seeds are sown as recommended the plants do not receive any check, and the crop of pods is early and heavy.

Staking and Mulching.—Early staking should be the rule ; the haulm of both Peas and Runner Beans then receives a certain amount of protection and grows rapidly. Mulching, too, is essential. Put on the mulch or top dressing early, before the soil becomes very dry ; it conserves the moisture, promotes healthy growth, and precludes the necessity for giving much water in dry weather. But water should be applied if needed. Several sowings of Dwarf Beans will be necessary, but one of Runner Beans will be ample for the season.

Potatoes.—Early varieties mature quickly, and after they are over the ground is available for Winter Greens, and in light soils the manure is put in early in the new year ; but in heavy, retentive soils autumn manuring is better. In all instances use rotted manure, not that which is half straw. Place the seed tubers in boxes in single layers and keep them cool, but exposed to the light and safe from frost, throughout the winter. Plant the earliest on a warm, south border, and protect the young haulm with dry mats or straw from late frosts. Each "set" should possess one or two, not more, strong sprouts when planted. Use a garden line for planting purposes, burying the sets about 4 inches deep, in rows 18 inches apart and 10 inches from set to set in the rows. Draw up the soil to the growing tops in good time, and keep the ground free from weeds. Hoeing the surface regularly between growing crops hastens the growth and increases the yield. Midseason and late varieties of Potatoes are planted early in March, and a few inches more space must be allowed between the rows and the sets respectively.

Parsnips, Carrots, Turnips, and Beetroot.—The soil for these is dug deeply. Stiff soil is trenched in the autumn and left in a rough state throughout the winter, so that the frosts, rains, and weather generally may pulverise it. Autumn manuring is also advisable. No fresh, partially rotted manure should be used, but that which is well rotted. The driest part of the garden is selected for the Parsnip crop, as these roots always cook best when used directly from the bed ; if they are grown in naturally wet soil, the roots often decay in winter time. Sow the seeds during the latter part of February thinly, in drills 16 inches apart.

Early Carrots, Lettuces, and Radishes on the Hotbed.
—A hotbed is very useful in February. One may sow Early English or French Horn Carrot seeds broadcast in sifted soil

7 inches deep on the hotbed, a few seeds of Wood's Early Frame Radish, and some Lettuce seeds. The Radishes will soon be fit for use, and the Lettuces may be duly transplanted on a sheltered border outside, leaving the Carrots to form roots. The main crop of Carrots ought to be grown in deep soil. The first week in April is soon enough to sow seeds in drills 1 foot apart. But for Beetroot, drills are opened at least 16 inches apart, and the first week in May is a good time for seed sowing. The first sowing of Turnips should take place in March, and be followed by other sowings monthly. Thinning out the young plants is a very important matter. Turnips, Beetroot, and Parsnips are thinned to 6 inches apart, early Carrots to 3 inches, and main crop varieties to 4 inches apart in the rows.

Onions and Leeks.—To obtain large specimens of these, seeds are sown in boxes of good soil in February, the plants being put out in the open beds in April. Sow seeds of both in the open quarters in March as soon as the soil is dry enough. Make the soil firm for Onions, and put out the Leeks in well manured, shallow trenches.

Cucumbers and Vegetable Marrows.—Plant Cucumbers in a frame on a hotbed in April, and raise Vegetable Marrow plants in the frame at the same time, putting out the plants in May on heaps of rich soil and manure mixed. Give protection until the first week in June.

Asparagus, Seakale, and Rhubarb.—The first named may be raised from seeds sown in April. Young plants should also be planted at that time, three rows being sufficient for a bed 5 feet wide. The soil ought to be deep, rich, and light. Plant Seakale in clumps of three, allowing 2 feet space between each clump. Plant Rhubarb in deeply trenched, heavily manured ground in an open quarter in autumn.

Celery.—Raise the plants in boxes and finally plant them in shallow trenches in the same way as advised for Leeks.

Winter Greens.—Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, Broccoli, and Kale should be raised in April and May, and the plants put out in firm soil on ground previously occupied by Potatoes and Peas.

Tomatoes.—Grow these plants on south walls and in sunny positions on open borders. Plant early in June. Vaporite and Alphol, used according to instructions, will kill wireworm, slugs, and other insect pests in the soil.

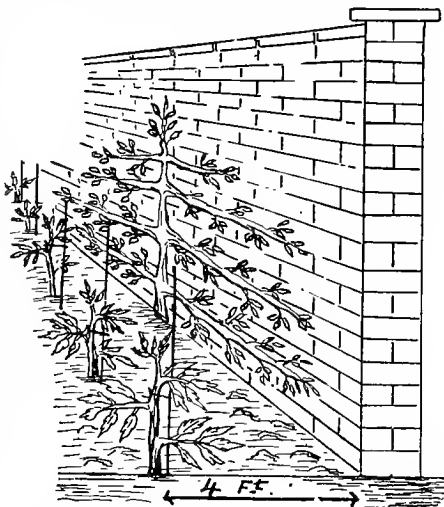
The plants may be grown and trained on walls just as cordon fruit trees are, and the return of fruits during a favourable season is generally very satisfactory. Thousands of amateurs will be surprised, if they will examine their walls, to find so much unoccupied space. It is a pity to allow walls to remain bare during the summer season when one can so easily cover them with a remunerative crop of Tomatoes. There is plenty of room between young fruit trees on walls, and the permanent wall trees will not suffer in the least.

Then there are the walls of the dwelling house, especially the end or gable portion, which are often left quite bare. But Tomatoes may be successfully grown in the open borders, just as Raspberry canes are, so that amateurs who do not possess outside walls or fences suitable may proceed to plant their Tomatoes in rows on a warm border in June.

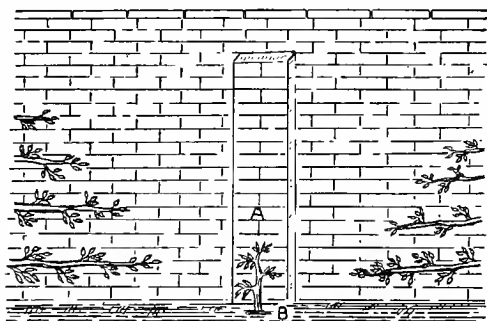
The first sketch shows how to plant a row of plants in a straight line parallel with a wall about 4 feet distant from it. This, on a south border, is a very warm position for Tomatoes, and the plants commence bearing early in the season, and finish well with a late crop. The plants should be about 3 feet apart in the row and supported by separate stakes, or a wire or two stretched the entire length of the row.

The second sketch shows how to plant Tomatoes, and train them on wall pillars between young fruit trees: A, wall pillar; B, Tomato plant.

As the roots of the plants have, practically, an unlimited run

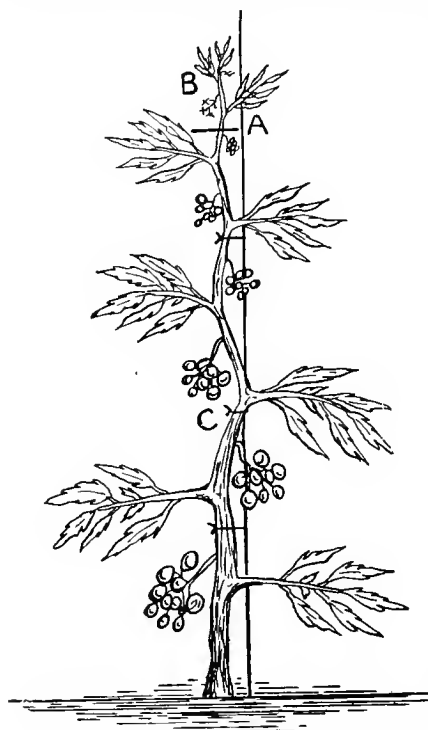


HOW TO PLANT TOMATOES IN A BORDER.



HOW TO PLANT TOMATOES ON A WALL.

be ensured. Only feed when you have secured a good set of fruits. Retain the main leaves intact, and pinch out all lateral shoots. Towards the end of summer these plants make luxuriant growth and set their fruits freely; but as late set



HOW TO TREAT TOMATO PLANTS WHEN THE FRUIT HAS FORMED.

trusses will not ripen in our climate, it is unwise to allow the growth of the plants to continue after the early part of August. The third sketch shows how to treat a plant when the fruits have formed. Take off the top as shown at the dark line A; all growth beyond that point, as shown at B, will be unprofitable—the Tomatoes do not mature, and by allowing any further growth the fruits below the line A are robbed. The stopping of the plants hastens the ripening of the fruits retained, and so you are thus able to secure a full crop. Tie the plant to the stake immediately below a joint as shown at C.

General Hints. —

Packets of seeds contain generally less than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in the case of Cabbages, Cauliflowers, etc. Packets of Lettuces and Celery are light in weight but contain many seeds. Packets of Cucumbers and Vegetable Marrows will act as a guide.

generally contain less than a dozen seeds. These few particulars will act as a guide. The time stated for the produce to come to maturity—fit condition for use—is approximate. There are many more first class varieties as well as those named in the following list, but these should find a place in every vegetable garden; others may be added according to the available space and the inclination of the owner.

<i>Kinds.</i>	<i>Varieties.</i>	<i>Dates of Sowing or (First) Planting.</i>	<i>Quantity of Seeds to Sow Each Time.</i>	<i>When Fit to Use.</i>
Potatoes	Dwarf Top Ashleaf	February 1	1 peck	<i>In about</i> 10 weeks
"	Abundance	March 10	1 peck	15 weeks
"	Up-to-Date	March 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ bushel	24 weeks
"	The Factor	March 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ bushel	24 weeks
Beans, Dwarf	Canadian Wonder	May 5	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint	14 weeks
"	Ne Plus Ultra	May 20	1 pint	17 weeks
Beans, Broad	Beck's Early Gem	February 1	1 pint	15 weeks
"	Mazagan	February 1	1 pint	16 weeks
"	Longpod	March 20	1 quart	17 weeks
Beans, Runner	Champion Long Podded	May 15	1 pint	17 weeks
"	Ne Plus Ultra	May 15	1 pint	17 weeks
Asparagus	Connover's Colossal	April 10	1 packet	Third year (from seeds)
Beetroot	Nutting's Dwarf Red	May 10	1 ounce	17 weeks
"	Pragnell's Exhibition	May 10	1 ounce	17 weeks
Broccoli	Veitch's Self Protecting	April 20	1 packet	20 weeks
"	Snow's Winter White	April 20	1 packet	24 weeks
"	Ledsham's Latest of All	May 1	1 packet	24 weeks
"	June King	May 1	1 packet	28 weeks
Brussels Sprouts	Aigburth	February 1	1 packet	24 weeks
"	Srymgeour's Dwarf	April 20	1 packet	24 weeks
Cabbage	Ellam's Early	February 1	1 packet	16 weeks
"	Mein's No. 1	April 1	1 packet	18 weeks
"	Enfield Market	August 10	1 packet	20 weeks
Carrots	English Horn	February	1 packet	12 weeks
"	Intermediate	April	1 ounce	20 weeks
Cauliflowers	Early London	February	1 packet	17 weeks
"	Erfurt Dwarf Early	March	1 packet	17 weeks
"	Veitch's Autumn Giant	April	1 packet	22 weeks
Celery	Sandringham White	March 1	1 packet	22 weeks
"	Major Clarke's Red	March 1	1 packet	22 weeks
"	Sulham Prize Piuk	April 1	1 packet	22 weeks
Cucumber	Model	April 1	1 packet	12 weeks
"	Telegraph	April 1	1 packet	12 weeks
Leek	Musselburgh	February	1 packet	28 weeks
Lettuce	All the Year Round	February	1 packet	8 weeks
"	London White Cos	April 1	1 packet	10 weeks
Onions	Ailsa Craig	February 1	1 packet	22 weeks
"	Rousham Park Hero	March 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce	22 weeks
"	White Spanish	March 1	1 ounce	22 weeks
Parsnips	Hollow Crowned	February	1 packet	24 weeks
"	Student	February	1 packet	24 weeks
Peas	First and Best	January	1 pint	14 weeks
"	Early Sunrise	February 10	1 pint	14 weeks
"	Gradus	March 1	1 quart	15 weeks
"	The Gladstone	March 10	1 pint	15 weeks
"	Veitch's Perfection	April 20	1 quart	17 weeks
"	Ne Plus Ultra	May 1	1 quart	17 weeks
Savoy	Dwarf Ulm	April 1	1 packet	20 weeks
"	Dwarf Green Curled	April 20	1 packet	24 weeks
Spinach	Round Seeded	February	2 ounces	10 weeks
Tomato	Sunrise	February	1 packet	20 weeks
Turnip	Early Milan	March 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce	8 weeks
"	Jersey Lily	March 20	1 ounce	8 weeks
"	Snowball	April 1	1 ounce	10 weeks
Veg. Marrow	Moore's Cream	April 1	1 packet	17 weeks
"	Long White	April 1	1 packet	18 weeks

CHAPTER X

Favourite Fruits and How they are Grown.

Growing Grapes in a Small Greenhouse.—Grapes may be had in a small greenhouse either from Vines in pots or planted out in a border. The easiest way to grow them is when the Vines are planted out. Vines in pots need careful and constant attention, otherwise they are never satisfactory, whereas Vines in a border are less likely to suffer from slight neglect, although it goes without saying that they will give only of their best if they receive the best cultivation. If Vines in pots are once allowed to get dry at the roots it is almost certain that the crop will be ruined, and when the pots are full of roots watering cannot be neglected even for a day. If the roots are in a fairly large border of soil they need water far less often, and a day's absence from home and consequent failure to water them would not affect Vines planted out.

An Explanation of Practical Details.—To judge from the miserable specimens we often see many amateurs fail to understand the way in which the Vine fruits. The bunches are produced on the current year's growth, or in other words by the green shoots, and these shoots arise from buds that formed on the previous year's growths. Thus the shoots that bear this year's crop will provide buds that will produce next year's growth and fruit.

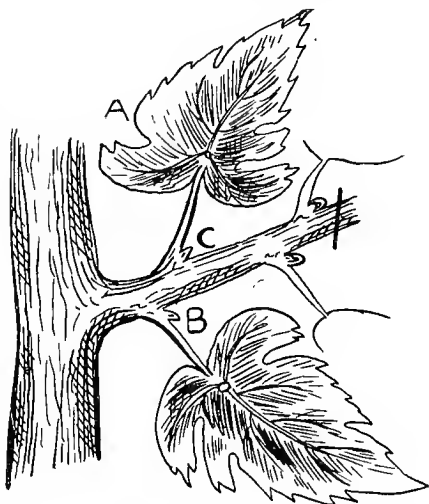
The easiest way to explain the intricacies of the subject will be to begin with the Vine in winter time when it is dormant, and to suppose it to have been planted in November. In January the Vine is cut down to within two or three buds of its base, that is, quite close to the ground. Probably all three of the buds will burst into growth in due time. If there is plenty of roof space for the Vine to cover, two shoots may be allowed to grow to form two main stems. If, however, several Vines are planted 3 feet 6 inches apart, as is usual, then only one bud must be allowed to grow, the other two being rubbed off. Care should be taken to select the best of the two or three young shoots, as the one retained will form the stem of the Vine. If a bunch of Grapes appears it must be pinched out. By the end of the summer this shoot should be quite 5 or 6 feet long. In the February following it is shortened to 3 feet, so as to lay the foundation of a vigorous Vine. The buds towards the top will break into growth first. The uppermost shoot is selected to train straight up the roof, continuing the Vine stem. Two other shoots (not opposite each other but occurring alternately on the stem) are retained to form side shoots which will subsequently develop into spurs. All growths that may arise below these three selected shoots

are rubbed out. Then the Vine begins the work of bearing fruit. Probably as the side shoots develop (and they must be tied to the wires almost at right angles to the stem) a bunch of Grapes will show on each. Although it is best to cut them off and so allow the Vine to devote all its energy to making growth, most amateurs will like to leave them, rather than wait another year for fruit. The leading shoot is allowed to grow unchecked, the rest of the side shoots are pinched off at one leaf beyond the bunch (or if there is no bunch, when four or five leaves are formed, not counting the small ones at the extreme base). Thus at the end of the second year the Vine has only two side shoots and a leader. After the former are stopped, smaller shoots will arise from the leaf axils. These are called sublaterals and are stopped as soon as they have made one leaf.

How a Vine is Pruned.

—Again, in the following January pruning is carried out, and the method then practised is similar to that followed throughout the life of the Vine, except in the treatment of the leading shoot. This is left 3 feet long until the top of the trellis is reached, when, of course, extension ceases and growth is restricted to the side shoots. The

method of treating the side shoots is quite simple once the principle is understood. Take the two side shoots which were stopped at one leaf beyond the bunch, or when they had made four or five leaves. In the February following this season of growth each shoot is cut back to within two buds of its base, say within 1 inch or less of the main stem. This is the sort of thing that the amateur will not do, and in consequence his Vines get out of order and full of weak shoots that never bear fruit. When the two buds start into growth only one is retained; the other is rubbed off. When the little shoots are about 1 inch long it can be seen



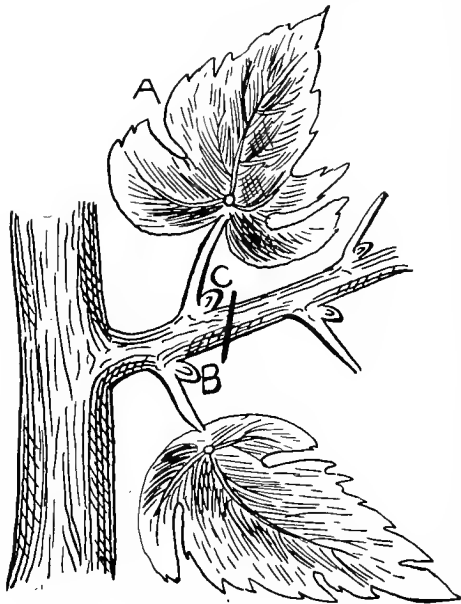
SHOWING HOW THE SIDE SHOOT IS STOPPED BEYOND THE FOURTH LEAF.

A, important leaf. B and C, buds to which the shoot will be pruned in winter.

which, if either, contains a bunch; naturally that carrying a bunch is retained. If neither has a bunch the weaker is rubbed off. There in a nutshell is the way to prune a Vine. During summer each side shoot is stopped at one bunch beyond the leaf, and sublaterals are allowed to make only one leaf before their points are pinched out. The following winter the shoots are again cut back to within two buds of their bases, rubbing off the shoot which has no bunch when

the Vines begin to grow. As the leading shoot progresses up the roof, side shoots alternating but not opposite to each other are trained at right angles to the stem, just as explained in connection with the first two side shoots. Thus by the time the Vine has reached the top of the roof it will have side shoots throughout its length. Through being cut back hard every winter these in time form knotty growths which are known as spurs. Unless the annual pruning is severe—to within two buds of the base—these spurs soon become long, and waste a lot of space and give rise to weak shoots.

Details of Cultivation.—Vines need a well prepared border 3 feet deep; in the



SHOWING THE POINT TO WHICH THE VINE SHOOT IS CUT BACK IN WINTER.

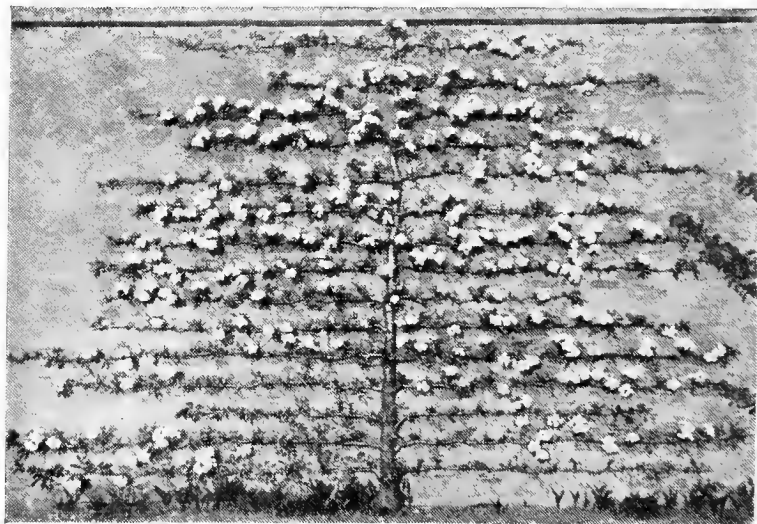
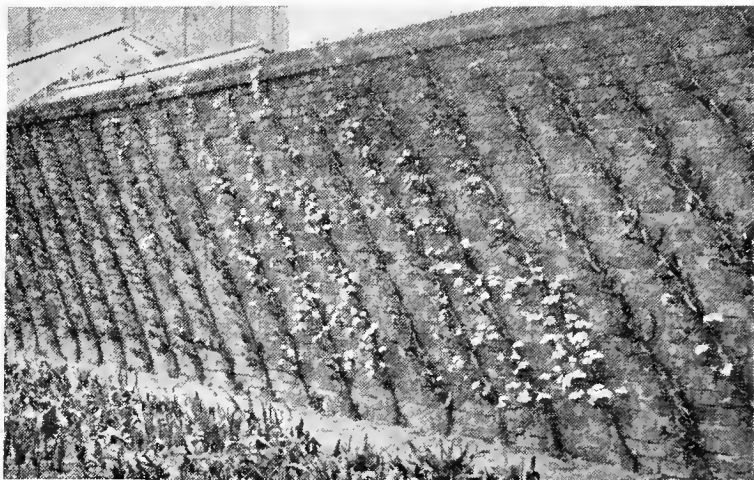
A, important leaf. B and C, buds to which the shoot will be pruned in winter.

bottom a layer of brick rubble is placed; upon this comes a layer of turves, grass side downwards; rough turfy loam or, in other words, turves chopped into pieces 2 or 3 inches square, form the remainder of the border. It is of no use planting Vines in ordinary garden soil; they need rough turfy soil, and a border made of this will last for years. Varieties suitable for amateurs' greenhouses are planted 3 feet 6 inches apart. If the greenhouse is heated by hot water pipes it may be started in early March to have Grapes ripe in late summer. A maximum temperature of 40° at

night is enough for the first three weeks; naturally it will rise during the day if the sun comes out. When the thermometer reaches 60° a little air is given. One cannot be too careful in giving air in early spring when the Vines are beginning to grow. The young leaves are most tender and easily injured. Air should always be given on the leeward side if possible. As the young shoots grow the night temperature may be gradually increased to 50°, in a week or two to 60°, giving more air during the day as the weather gets warmer. Always give air to prevent the temperature rising too high, and never to decrease it. The latter is a very bad practice. It will, then, be understood that a little air should be given early in the day, gradually increasing the quantity as the sun gains power. Throughout the season of growth, *except* when the Vines are in blossom and when the Grapes are ripening, the greenhouse should be closed fairly early in the afternoon (before the sun ceases to shine on the roof), and the paths and walks of the house thoroughly moistened. This produces a warm, moist temperature that encourages quick and vigorous growth. When the Vines are in bloom the atmosphere is kept dry, and as much air as possible is given consistent with the maintenance of a minimum temperature of 60°. Again, when the Grapes begin to colour the atmosphere needs to be kept dry, and when the berries commence to ripen plenty of air is essential. Black Hamburgh, black; Alicante, black; Foster's Seedling, white; Buckland Sweetwater, white, are the best sorts for an amateur's greenhouse that can maintain a minimum night temperature of 40° after the Vines are started in early March.

Grapes in an Unheated Greenhouse.—Black Hamburgh may be grown well in a greenhouse that is not heated, either in a border or planted out, but some of those small and delicious Grapes such as Royal Muscadine, Chasselas Fontainebleau, Chasselas Grise, and others succeed. The treatment detailed suits these also. When Vines are grown in unheated greenhouses it is important to close early in the afternoon so as to raise the temperature considerably, and, to use a term common in garden parlance, "harbour the sun heat." If the Vines are in pots, these should be 10 inches inside diameter. Good turfy soil must be used and made firm about the roots. Needless to say, a perfect drainage of crocks (pieces of flower pot) at the base is most necessary. The question of giving water, too, is one that closely affects the welfare of Vines in pots. When the latter are full of roots, water is needed every day, in hot weather probably even twice a day. An excellent way of training the shoots is to attach them to tall bamboo stakes placed around the edge of the pot; they look well and fruit well. In any case, before they start into growth the canes should be bent in semicircular form, so as to induce the buds at the base as well as those at the top to start into growth.

Apples, Pears, and Plums.—Bush or pyramid shaped Apples on the Paradise stock are most suitable for small gardens, the pyramid



CORDON AND HORIZONTAL PEAR TREES.

has a central stem and numerous side branches springing from it, while the bush has an open centre, the main shoots rising from near the base. The fruit of the Apple is produced chiefly on "spurs"—short stubby growths. Some of these form naturally, while others may be induced to form by summer pruning. This is carried out early in July. The side growths are pinched back to some five or six leaves from the base, instead of being allowed to grow about 12 or 18 inches long, as they would otherwise do. Summer pruning has the effect of helping the development of fruit buds at the base of the shoot, and so in time forming a spur. The leading growths—those that determine the shape of the tree—are stopped when about 12 inches long at the summer pruning. Winter pruning consists in still further cutting back the side growths where necessary, to within two or three buds of their bases, and the leading shoot may be shortened to 10 inches.

But, after all, although this pruning tends to promote the fruitfulness of a tree if the roots are in good condition, it will do little good otherwise—in fact, it may lead to still further growth and less fruit. The great secret of maintaining trees in a fruitful condition lies in the careful practice of root pruning, so as to check exuberant growth.

The Value of Root Pruning.—Young fruit trees invariably need root pruning, often every year for three or four years after planting. Otherwise they make very strong shoots that bear no fruit, and the more one cuts them the stronger they grow. By taking out a trench about 4 feet from the stem, finding the thick roots, and cutting them hard back within 1 foot of their base, and laying others that may be growing straight down near the surface, the tree will be compelled to make shoots of moderate vigour that will be likely to flower and fruit. Young fruit trees need no manure unless they are growing in light gravelly land, when a mulch in summer time will be beneficial. The remarks about the Apple apply also to the Pear and Plum. The latter very often needs the most severe root pruning of all.

Whenever there is an opportunity to train in a good young shoot that will take the place of an older one, this should be done, especially in Plum trees.

Peach, Nectarine, and Morello Cherry.—These are grouped together, since the same methods of treatment largely apply. All bear their fruits on the previous year's shoots, so naturally the more of these the tree contains the greater will be the crop of fruit. The proper time to prune is after the fruits are over; the shoot which has borne fruit is cut out, and a young shoot growing from somewhere near the base of the older one is trained in to take its place and bear fruit the following year. With the Peach or Nectarine the work of disbudding the young shoots in spring is important. Many more start into growth than one can find room for, therefore the majority are rubbed off. The work must not be completed at once. A week or ten days should elapse between the



1.—Shoots pinched at B in summer; cut back to A in winter.



2.—Sublateral shoots will form at A; they must be stopped. B indicates basal buds that remain dormant.



3.—Showing the shoot in winter when pruned.

HOW TO TRAIN A PEAR TREE.

first and second disbudding, and then it may be necessary in another ten days to look over the trees finally.

If one remembers that one young shoot must be left at the top of the older shoot, one as near the base as possible, and one here and there wherever there may be room to train it in, disbudding can be easily understood. Some of the intervening growths are removed at the first disbudding, the remaining ones at the second and third. Unless one growth is retained at the top of the old shoot, the latter will die back to the base, and any fruits it may carry will be useless. If a growth is not left at the base of the older shoot, when the latter has to be removed there is nothing to take its place.

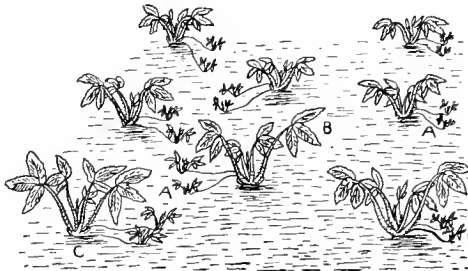
Sweet Cherries.—The fruit of the Sweet Cherry is produced chiefly on spur clusters which arise on the older branches. Comparatively little pruning is necessary. In summer the growths are shortened to 3 or 4 inches before the fruits begin to colour, and all superfluous ones are cut out. It is important that light and air should be able to gain access to the shoots, and this is accomplished by cutting out any not required and by shortening others. There is little pruning to do in winter.

Red, White, and Black Currants and Gooseberries.—The fruit of the Red and White Currant and of the Gooseberry is produced on spurs or short stubby growths that form on the stems. The fruit of the Black Currant is borne on the previous year's shoots and not on spur growths. Thus it will be easily understood that the same method of pruning cannot suit both, and in the cultivation of fruit trees more mistakes are made in pruning than in anything else. The chief pruning of Black Currants takes place after the fruit is gathered, some of the shoots which have fruited being cut out to allow more space, more light and air for the development and proper maturation of the young shoots which have yet to fruit. At the winter pruning there is little to do beyond thinning out the old shoots when necessary and slightly shortening some of the young shoots to preserve the balance of the bush. Most of the fruit on Red and White Currants is obtained from spur growths some two or three years old. The young shoots are shortened by about half, and in due course fruit spurs will form on them.

Side shoots on older wood are cut to within two buds of the base at the winter pruning after being summer pruned to five or six leaves.

The Strawberry.—The Strawberry thrives best in a good loamy soil, heavy rather than light. Planting should be done not later than September, otherwise the plants will bear a poor crop the next year. A good plan is to put out the plants 1 foot apart in the rows, having the latter 2 feet distant from each other. Then after the first crop has been gathered every other plant may be taken up, thus leaving the remainder at a uniform distance of 2 feet. The best variety for little gardens is Royal Sovereign.

Other good ones are Bedford Champion, Fillbasket, Sir Joseph Paxton, Waterloo. It is quite an easy matter to increase one's



HOW STRAWBERRY LAYERS ARE PRODUCED.

stock by means of layering, a process that is explained by the accompanying sketches. Some cultivators take only one crop of fruit from their Strawberry plants; others take two or even three. In a little garden they ought certainly to give two crops before being pulled up. A succession of young plants is kept up by layering.

A SELECTION OF FRUITS FOR SMALL GARDENS

Apples

Dessert.—Mr. Gladstone, August; Irish Peach, August; King of the Pippins, October to Christmas; Allington Pippin, November to February; Cox's Orange Pippin, October to January; Margil, November to March; Claygate Pearmain, December to March.

Cooking.—Beauty of Bath, August; Bismarck, November to February; Ecklinville, October to January; Lane's Prince Albert, October to January; Bramley's Seedling, December to March; Newton Wonder, November to April.

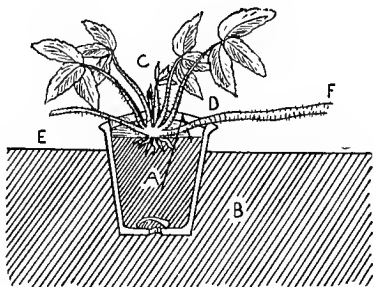
Pears

Dessert.—Williams' Bon Chrétien, August and September; Beurré Giffard, August; Doyenné du Comice, November; Louise Bonne of Jersey, November; Marie Louise, October and November; Josephine de Malines, January to March; Le Lectier, January to March.

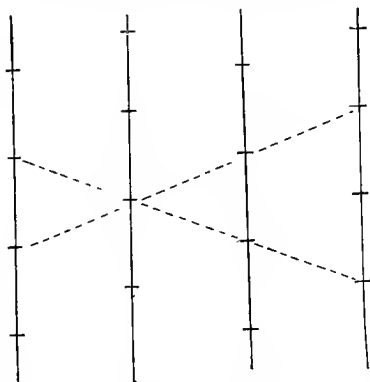
Cooking.—Vicar of Wakefield, December to January.

Plums

Dessert.—Early Transparent Gage, August; Kirke's Blue, August and September; Denniston's Superb Gage, end of August; Green



Runner layered in flower pot : A, good soil ; B, ground ; C, runner ; D, peg ; E, surface soil ; F, stem of runner.



The rooted layers may be put out 16 inches apart in rows 22 inches distant from each other.



When the layer is rooted the stem is cut off as shown.

STRAWBERRY LAYERING.

Gage, August ; Jefferson, September ; Rivers' Early Prolific, July and August ; Coe's Golden Drop, September and October.

Cooking.—Pond's Seedling, September ; Victoria, September, finest of all cooking Plums ; Prince of Wales, September ; Monarch, late September.

Peaches

Early Rivers, July ; Hale's Early, July ; Royal George, August ; Stirling Castle, August ; Violette Hâtive, August ; Grosse Mignonne, end of August and September ; Noblesse, early September.

Nectarines

Early Rivers, early August ; Lord Napier, early August ; Elruge, August ; Violette Hâtive, August ; Pineapple, September.

Cherries

Early Rivers, June ; May Duke, June ; Frogmore Bigarreau, end of June and July ; Black Tartarian, early August ; Noble, August ; Elton Heart, end of August.

Strawberries

Royal Sovereign, Fillbasket, Bedford Champion, Waterloo, La Grosse Sucrée, Sir Joseph Paxton.

Gooseberries

Red.—Champagne, Crown Bob, Ironmonger, Warrington, Lancashire Lad.

Yellow.—Golden Drop, Leader, Langley Gem.

White.—Whitesmith.

Green.—Stockwell, Telegraph, Keepsake.

Currants

Black.—Lee's Prolific, Black Naples, Boskoop Giant.

Red.—Raby Castle, La Versailles, Fay's Prolific, Red Dutch.

White.—White Dutch.

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