

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62.41

[7945]

**GROW  
PERENNIALS  
FROM SEED**



**FERRY-MORSE SEED CO.**

**DETROIT**

**SAN FRANCISCO**

# IT'S FUN TO

**S**TARTING perennials from seed is one of the most satisfying experiences a home gardener can have. And there's no more practical way to save garden money. With simple care a packet of seed will produce scores of plants for border and garden with some to give away or sell if desired. Raising perennials from seed is easier than most people think.

## **Sow Seed at Proper Time**

From June to about August 15 perennials can safely be started from seed outdoors. For most kinds the earlier in the season they are started, the better.

## **Make Suitable Seed Bed**

Knock the bottom out of a good-sized shallow wooden box and sink the sides into the ground, leaving two or three inches of the wood above the surface. Or, for a small quantity of seeds, a flat with holes in the bottom for drainage can be used; this has the advantage of being easy to move from place to place. Fill either kind of seed bed to within an inch of the top with good, well-sifted garden loam. Firm the soil and level the top.

## **Sow Seed Carefully**

Make rows three to four inches apart with the edge of a ruler and sow the seeds thinly enough so that they do not touch each other. Do not cover tiny seeds; merely press them into the soil with a small flat board, a brick, or the back of a trowel. Slightly larger seeds should be barely covered with fine soil, and still larger ones to a depth of about twice their thickness. Firm the



# GROW PERENNIALS

soil over the seed so that immediate contact can be made with the soil moisture. In the case of columbine, give the soil an extra-firming to get best germination.

## **Right Amount of Moisture Important**

Spread damp burlap over the seed bed after planting, keeping it moist but not too wet, until the seeds begin to come up. As soon as sprouting begins, remove the burlap. At this stage a covering made of lath laid crosswise, with spacing the width of the lath, is practical. Spread the burlap over the lath for a few days until the seedlings are all up. Continue to water gently, using a very fine spray. *Never let the soil dry out.* Too much water at this time, however, is likely to cause damping off.

## **Shelter and Shade Essential**

Shelter from strong winds and shade during the heat of the day are necessary to the seed bed at all times. Locating the bed on the north side of a building is sometimes ideal. Under trees is usually not so good because of the drip after rains. Either a canopy of cheesecloth or the lath covering will provide shade from hot sunshine and protection from wind and driving rains all through the period of young growth. The covering should be removable so that the seedlings can get sun and air during the cooler part of the day.

## **How to Transplant Seedlings**

If planted in late May or June, the young plants can be set in the border or garden when they are two or three inches tall. Lift them out one at a

# FROM SEED

time with as much soil as possible around the roots and set them in holes large enough so that the roots will not be cramped. Water well.

## **How to Winter Seedlings**

If started as late as August, most perennials should be left in the seed bed until spring, protected with suitable covering put on just before the ground freezes. Straw, hay, or excelsior may be used; dead leaves are not practical as they are likely to mat down when wet and suffocate the little plants. The mulch should be several inches deep. A few pieces of board placed on top will keep it from blowing away. In spring the mulch should not be removed until danger of hard frost is past.

Young perennials transplanted to the border should also be mulched for winter protection.

## **Perennials Slow to Germinate**

Most perennials are slower than annuals in getting a start from seed. A few germinate in ten days; others, such as columbine, take two to three weeks; some take even longer. Do not be discouraged if there is no sign of life as soon as you think there should be.

## **Beginners Can Succeed**

There are numerous perennials which even beginners can start from seed with almost certain success. Of the taller flowers, delphinium and hollyhock; of the medium growing, columbine, gaillardia, coreopsis, painted daisy, and sweet william; among the dwarfs, hardy alyssum, hardy pinks, and the violas.



# Perennials for Special Uses



## MEDIUM TALL GROWING

Asclepias tuberosa  
Carnation  
Columbine  
Coreopsis  
Gaillardia, Giant  
Geum  
Hesperis matronalis  
Iceland Poppy  
Linum flavum  
Linum perenne  
Matricaria capensis  
Painted Daisy  
Penstemon gloxinoides  
Poppy orientale  
Scabiosa caucasica  
Shasta Daisy  
Stokesia cyanea  
Sweet William  
Thermopsis

## FOR SEMI-SHADE

Anchusa italica  
Columbine  
Cerastium  
Forget-me-not  
Platycodon  
Sweet William

## TALL GROWING

Anchusa italica  
Dropmore  
Campanula persicifolia  
Campanula pyramidalis  
Delphinium  
Foxglove  
Gypsophila paniculata  
Hibiscus, Marvels  
Hollyhock  
Lupin, Russell's  
Hybrids  
Forget-me-not,  
Sidalcea, New Hybrids

## LOW GROWING

Alyssum, Hardy  
Arabis alpina  
Callirhoe involucrata  
Campanula carpatia  
Cerastium tomentosum  
Forget-me-not,  
Blue Bird  
Iberis gibraltarica  
Nierembergia  
Pinks, Hardy  
Viola

## FOR DRY SPOTS

Anchusa italica  
Callirhoe involucrata  
Campanula pyramidalis  
Nierembergia



# WHAT MAKES SEEDS "Good"?

To some people any seed that will germinate well and produce vigorous seedlings under normal growing conditions is "good" seed.

To Ferry-Morse Seed Co. "good" seed must be all that and much more.

Back of FERRY'S SEEDS are years of painstaking selection and plant breeding in an endeavor to make every flower and vegetable variety offered as nearly true to name and ideal type as possible. "Good" seed according to Ferry-Morse standards has superb quality bred right into it for generations.

When you ask your dealer for FERRY'S SEEDS, you show that you, too, understand what is really meant by "good" seed.

