

TOWN  
GARDENING

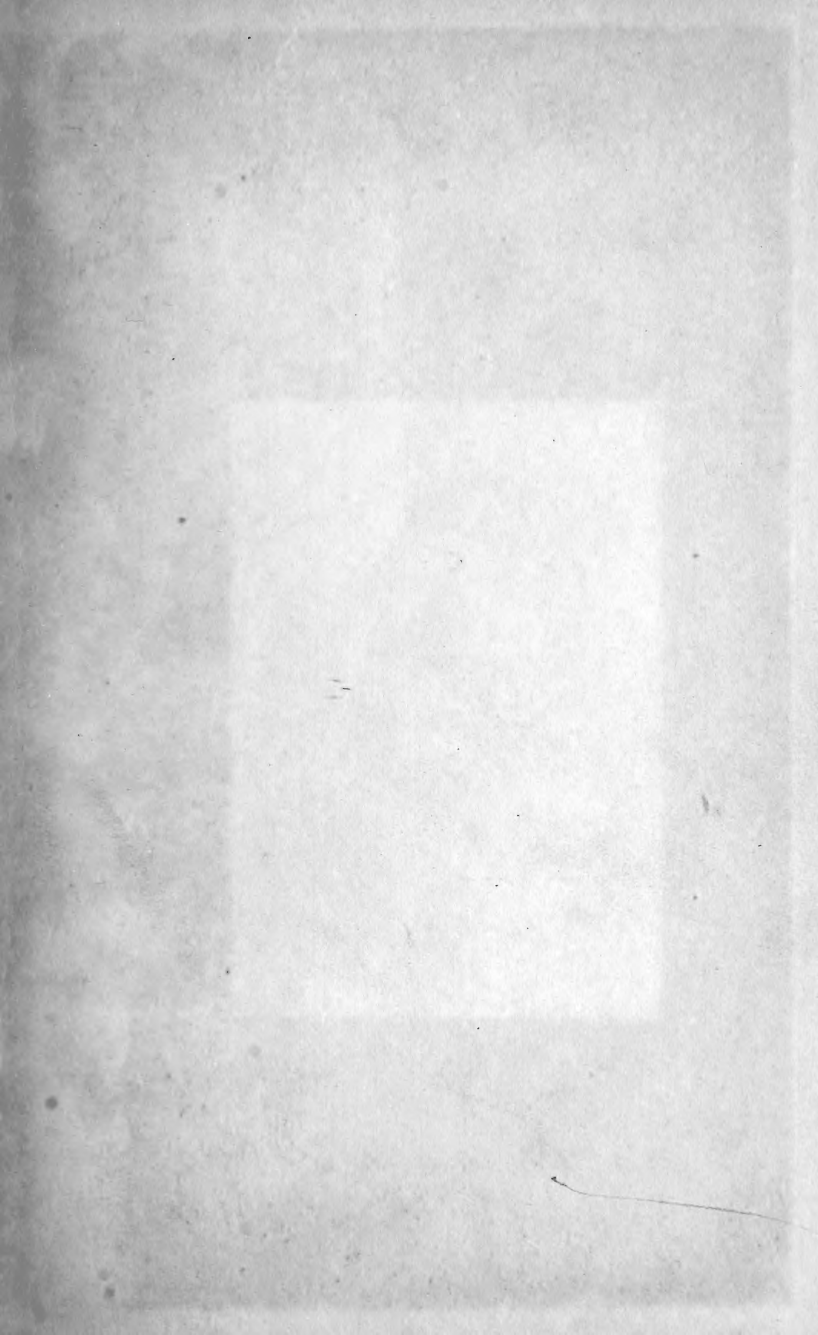
MARY  
HAMPDEN

THE HOME GARDEN BOOKS



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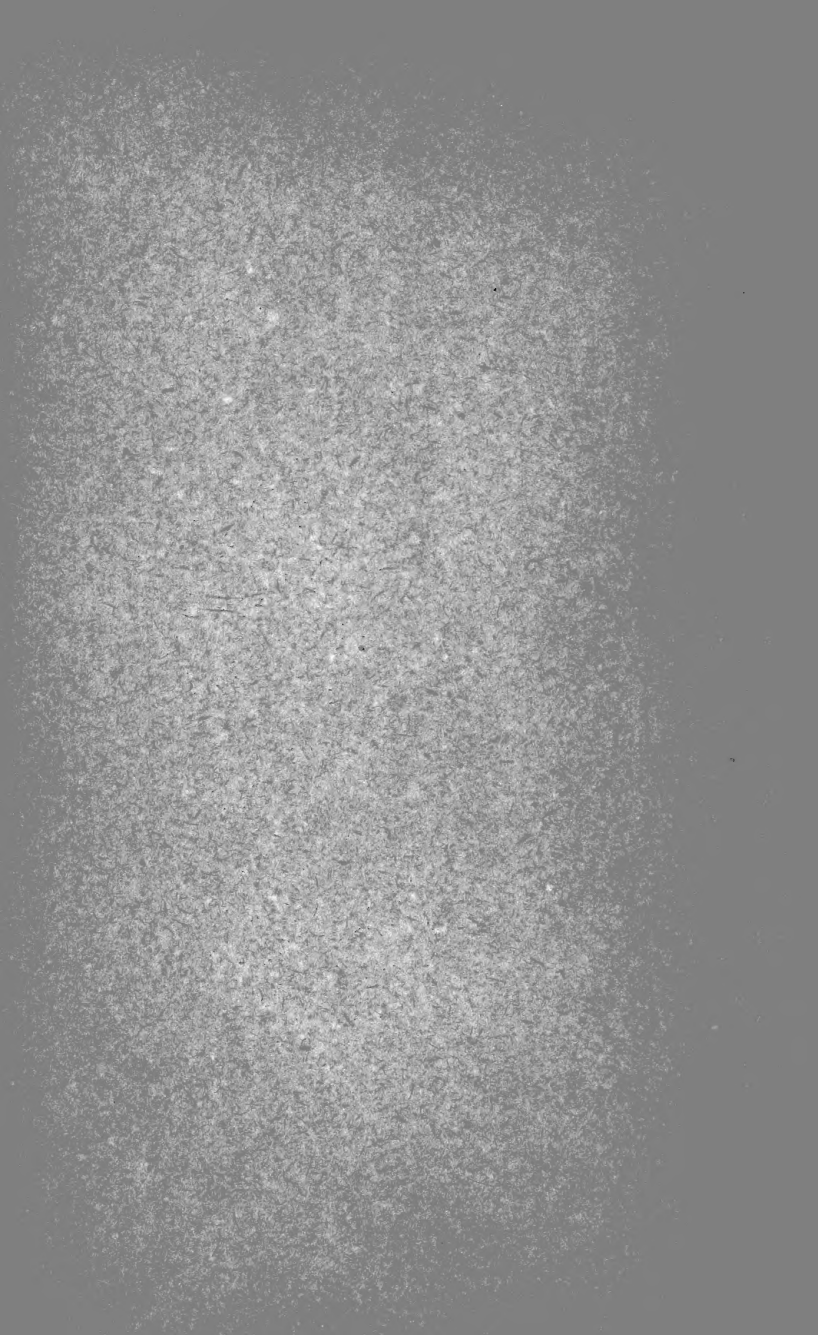
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August







TOWN  
GARDENING

‘THE HOME GARDEN’ BOOKS



A CORNER IN THE TOWN GARDEN.

# TOWN GARDENING

BY

MARY HAMPDEN

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TO  
E. M. D.

'Can all your tapestries, or your pictures, show  
More beauties, than in herbs and flowers do grow ?'

ABRAHAM COWLEY.





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# TOWN GARDENING

## INTRODUCTION

The Town Dweller's Wants. What has been done. About Sour Soil. Watering Pot Plants. About a Sooty Atmosphere. What may be done. Way to do it.

A MAN who pined to cultivate orchids in a town back yard would be deserving of scorn instead of sympathy, but the man with a great love for flowers, and a longing to have *some* beautiful blossom and foliage in the back yard, merits all possible encouragement. A woman who yearns to cultivate flowers for the house can do it surprisingly well with no better aids than a sunny balcony, boxes, pots and sheets of glass. And the dingiest town house can be transformed, in spring, summer, autumn, aye, and even winter, by quite a moderate outlay of time, money, and skill in gardening.

But that is just where the difficulty comes in—as a rule the skill is lacking ; there may be general knowledge, bright ideas, rudimentary understanding of plants, but the attempts end in failure for want of being guided. This book aims at giving such plain instructions and valuable hints that the

ignoramus can start flower culture with every prospect of success ; while the person who knows a little will be shown why things have gone wrong before, and how they can be made to go right for the future.

There are as many different wants, of course, as there are houses—and individuals. It is best to set personal predilections on one side at first, and consider which trees, shrubs, climbers and other plants are likely to live and flourish, leaving till later experiments with subjects that may exist, but are so unfitted to the proposed environment that their appearance will, perhaps, never be more than third rate. For myself, I would rather have a display of perfect ivy, and brighten it annually by calceolarias, chrysanthemums, daffodils and crocuses—all in gold—which can be absolutely relied upon, than I would have roses all blighted, waxen hyacinths and begonias all soot spotted, and pansies the size of lawn daisies.

Most householders are restricted, or influenced, by what has been done by their predecessors. This is usually wise. If the Virginian creeper is a gorgeous drapery, for heaven's sake let the tapestry hang, and do not plant puny wistarias and clematises instead ; for both 'ampelopsis' (as the mere amateur loves to call it) and ivy (which he never thinks of mentioning as 'hedera helix') need be but backgrounds to new ornaments.

The disheartened man nearly always explains his gardening misfortunes by saying, 'It's the atmosphere—the soots, you know.' Ten to one sour soil has been the murdering enemy. People are only real gardeners when they have come to look upon the hoe—used directly plants look sickly,

in preference to dosing with drugs or foods—as worth its weight in gold. Sour compost in receptacles in which plants grow is seldom suspected of killing them, but that, again, is more often the cause of failure than is the sooty atmosphere.

How does pot, tub or box soil become sour if it was sweet compost to start? Well, water releases the manurial constituents, which should be assimilated by the plants or drained off through the holes below: if those holes or cracks in board are insufficient or choked up, the moisture is stagnant and turns putrid, as a foul green pond. If the soil is always more or less wet, through too frequent watering, there is no evaporation, bad gases cannot escape, and the whole becomes poisoned.

There is a safe rule for testing if a pot plant needs watering. Rap the side of the pottery with the knuckles half-way down, and if the ball of soil inside is dry enough for watering to be advisable, there will be a sharp ringing sound, not a dull muffled noise. Wooden receptacles can be fairly well tested in the same fashion if they are painted. If they are of bare wood all one has to do is to use one's eyes intelligently, for wood looks darker when it is damp than when it is dry.

Some plants, etc., require a lot more water than others, but none flourish in soil that is mere mud. The oleander is often stood with its pot in a saucer containing water, but that is merely to wet the bottom compost and enable the roots to drink as they will; and gardeners always put two or three nuggets or larger lumps of charcoal down low, but not quite at the bottom, so that a filtering process

goes on. It is an excellent plan to add little bits of charcoal, bought from a florist for the purpose, to every pot, box, tub, basket, etc. etc.

Draughts kill countless plants, shrubs, and even trees. The side alley by the house, usually the tradesman's path, makes a bad wind-shaft.

The domestic animals are terribly destructive ; it is no use hoping seeds will ' come up ' if cats are in the habit of scratching among them, and the soil is soon poisoned when a dog cannot be kept off beds and borders. Sparrows nip off bits of flower or leaf occasionally—the golden crocuses and honeysweet primroses, and the tips of the ' grass ' of pinks, for example—but birds do more good than harm, I am convinced. A trough of water should be put out for them, especially in the earliest spring, when easterly winds are drying, and if a few handfuls of grass, chickweed, lettuce or watercress are laid near the pinks, the foliage of the latter will probably escape attack.

Soot is a great evil, undoubtedly, yet the use of the syringe effects wonderful cures. If we leave our evergreen and other shrubs, our climbers that should be glossy, our rose trees that ought to be clean, for only chance rain to wash, we shall certainly see them sicken. We must syringe above and below the leaves, dip boughs and sprays in buckets where we can, and water often overhead, using the fine rose of the pot. For that which we call ' soot ' is, in reality, a compound of many chemicals. It is not possible to wash the petals of a begonia without bruising them, but we can sponge outside-growing foliage, as we do sponge our indoor aspidistras ; and pot roses, geraniums, carnations, very many flowers too, may be cleansed by spraying them



tenderly with quite clear water through a scent-fountain.

The more beauty there is within daily sight of town dwellers, the happier must they be ; the more attractive the home the greater becomes its title to the name. For if ' four walls do not a prison make,' neither do they make a home. Green leaves and gay blooms should be reckoned as the rights of every dwelling.



## Part I

### WORK IN MAY, JUNE AND JULY

#### CHAPTER I

#### CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTS, SHRUBS, BULBS, ETC.

The Tree-shaded Garden. Perennials that will live. Bedding Plants for shady Gardens. Drip from Trees. The hot, enclosed Town Garden. Perennials that will live. Plants for Heated and Unheated Glasshouses. Old and New Floral Schemes.

**A**S seeds, roots, trees, shrubs, bulbs, etc., have to be bought, perhaps ordered from a distance, the first task in town gardening is to decide what to cultivate. Choosing cleverly is half the battle against adverse circumstances and three parts of the conquest of Triumph.

Is the back garden tree shaded, and enclosed by high walls?—If so, plants that will live all the year round, and do well each year, include the following:—

- MONKSHOOD (*Aconitum napellus*). *Blue. Tall.*
- WOLF'S BANE (*Aconitum lycotonum*). *Yellow. Tall.*
- BUGLE (*Ajuga reptans*). *Purple-blue. Dwarf.*
- JAPANESE ANEMONE (*Anemone japonica*). *White or pink. Tall.*
- OX-EYE CHAMOMILE (*Anthemis tinctoria*). *Yellow. Medium.*
- WOODRUFF (*Asperula odorata*). *White. Dwarf.*
- MICHAELMAS DAISIES (*Asters Novæ-Anglia and Novi-Belgii*). *Of many shades of blue, violet, rose, lilac and white. Tall.*
- GOAT'S BEARD (*Astilbes Davidii and grandis*). *Majenta - rose. White. Tall.*
- VIOLET BELLS (*Campanula glomerata*). *Violet. Medium.*
- FUMITORY (*Corydalis cheilanthifolia*). *Yellow. Fern-like leaves. Dwarf.*
- LYRE FLOWER (*Dicentras spectabilis and eximia*). *Pink. Deep rosy red. Medium. Dwarf.*
- FOXGLOVES (*Digitalis purpurea, and p. alba*). *Purple. White. Tall.*
- LEOPARD'S BANE (*Doronicum*). *Gold. Tall and medium.*
- PLANTAIN LILY (*Funkia Fortunei robusta*). *Silvery lilac. Handsome foliage. Medium.*
- ST. JOHN'S WORT (*Hypericum reptans*). *Yellow. Medium, but spreading.*
- ROSE OF SHARON (*Hypericum calycinum*). *Gold. Medium.*
- IRIS, OR FLAGS (*Iris germanica*). *Violet, Blue, Gold, Bronze, Lilac, Crimson, White, and blends. Medium.*
- YELLOW WATER FLAG (*Iris pseudo-acorus*). *Yellow. Tall.*
- CREEPING JENNY (*Lysimachia nummularia*). *Yellow. Trailing.*
- LOOSESTRIFE (*Lysimachia vulgaris*). *Gold. Tall.*
- PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria rosea*). *Purplish rose. Tall.*
- MONKEY FLOWER (*Mimulus luteus*). *Yellow. Medium.*
- SOLOMON'S SEAL (*Polygonatum multiflorum*). *Whitey green. Tall.*
- PRIMROSE (*Primula vulgaris*). *Primrose yellow, or coloured hybrids. Dwarf.*
- LUNG-WORT (*Pulmonarias augustifolia and saccharata*). *Blue. Rose. Medium.*
- LONDON PRIDE (*Saxifraga umbrosa*). *Whitey pink. Medium.*
- GOLDEN ROD (*Solidagos spectabilis and serotina lepida*). *Gold. Tall. Very tall.*
- PERIWINKLE (*Vinca major*). *Lavender blue. Trailer.*

This list does not exhaust the plants that will thrive in shade ; there are other families, such as the cultivated blue-flowering lettuces (*latucas*), the crowsfoots (*ranunculuses*), meadow-sweets (*spiræas*), ragworts (*senecios*), perennial phloxes (*phloxes decussata* and *suffruticosa*), hardy maidenhair (*thalictrums*), and spidersworts (*tradescantias*), for example, that are quite likely to do well, as will double pæonies and single hollyhocks, unless the tree shade is ubiquitous. Many plants thrive without more than glimpses of sunshine, but cannot endure drip from overhead branches.

If any shrubs are wanted in tree-shaded gardens, privets, euonymuses, berberis aquifolium, common elder, common laurel, are the safest to choose. In open spaces the following should be tried :—

VERONICA GLAU- CÆRULEA. <i>Blue - pur- ple.</i>	MOCK ORANGE (Philadel- phus coronarius). <i>White.</i>
VERONICA BUXIFOLIA. <i>White.</i>	SPRAY BUSH (Cotoneaster horizontalis). <i>White ; autumn tinted.</i>
SALIX PURPUREA NANA. <i>The purple-stemmed dwarf willow.</i>	BERBERIS THUNBERGII. <i>Splendid autumn tints.</i>
AMERICAN CURRANT ( <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> ). <i>Rosy red.</i>	ATRIPLEX HALIMUS. <i>Purple flowers. Bright green foliage.</i>

Bulbs to plant in shade include bluebells or wood-hyacinths, which are obtainable in blue, rose or white, daffodils and narcissi, snowflakes, lilies of the valley, meadow-saffrons, alliums, yellow winter aconite, wood anemones, fritillaries, snowdrops, Christmas roses, the Star of Bethlehem, Darwin tulips, which are perennial, not to be lifted each year, and crown imperials.

As to bedding plants, the culture of which is dealt with in other chapters, calceolarias, lemon,

gold, and terra-cotta brown, are famous for shady gardens, fuchsias, double and single, are almost as reliable, while the variegated species is so bright as to rival flowers for beds. Ageratums, for which a familiar name is badly needed, will open their fluffy grey-blue or bright china-blue blossoms, and the single petunias, especially of the smaller sorts, are just as complaisant. Tobacco plants like shade, but dwindle beneath trees. It is not much use to rely on pansies, for they straggle and turn sickly under tall trees, and drip spoils their velvet petals ; but of course they can be grown well in any open places, as may also the brave double daisies (*Cellis perennis*), in red, pink or white, that flower continuously from spring to winter. These must have dead blooms cut off regularly, and be divided when their tufts become too thick, an operation that can be undertaken at any time, for the parent portion and the severed ones will soon produce buds again. The common or old-fashioned white garden pink is satisfactory in all situations ; if it scarcely blooms in some kinds of dense shade, it still beautifies the border by the cool bluish grey of its foliage.

Trees and climbers suited to shaded and shut-in town gardens are considered further on.

Of course, the plants recommended are bound to thrive better in partial shade and well away from walls ; yet the owner of a deplorably formed 'pleasure ground' can take heart of grace and introduce them to it without much risk.

The shaded front garden, or the slope down to the area, the portions of roof gardens behind chimney stacks and parapets, the balcony or verandah tubs, the window boxes, can all have their share of these floral and foliage subjects.

The very hot, because sunny, enclosed garden, in London or other towns, may be made gorgeous annually with double and single zonal geraniums, ivy-leaved and scented-leaved geraniums too, zinnias, African, French, Scotch and English marigolds, begonias, marguerites, asters, stocks, ageriums, petunias, etc. etc. Snapdragons and wall-flowers love heat and arid soil. The right kinds of perennials for this garden would include the following :—

**STARWORTS** (Perennial Asters, of which Michaelmas daisies are but a few).

*Blue, violet, crimson, rose, white, flesh, purple, heliotrope, lavender. Tall and medium.*

**YARROWS** (Achillea ptarmica, mongolica and filipendula, Parker's variety). *White. The last a brilliant yellow. Tall.*

**GOLD DUST** (Alyssum saxatile). *Yellow. Dwarf.*

**CHAMOMILE** (Anthemis tinctoria Kelwayi). *Yellow. Medium.*

**ROCK CRESS** (Arabis). *Double, single and variegated. White. Medium.*

**THRIFT** (Armeria maritima and latifolia). *Rose, white or lilac. Dwarf.*

**PURPLE ROCK CRESS** (Aubrietia). *Crimson, rose, blue, purple or lilac. Dwarf.*

**OXEYE** (Bupthalam salicifolium). *Gold. Medium.*

**ROCK PURSLANE** (Calandrinia umbellata). *Magenta. Dwarf.*

**BELL FLOWERS** (Campanula latifolia and persicæfolia). *Blue, white. Tall.*

**KNAPWEED** (Centaurea montana). *Purplish blue. The rose and white varieties usually succeed. Medium.*

**THE ROSY KNAPWEED** (Centaurea dealbata). *Deep rose with beautifully cut-out foliage of silvery effect. Medium.*

**VALERIAN** (Centranthus roseus, Centranthus albus). *Red rose, white. Fairly tall.*

**OX-EYE DAISY** (Chrysanthemum maximum). *White. Tall.*

**CHRYSANTHEMUMS** (Early-flowering border varieties). *All colours but blue. Tall, medium and dwarf.*

**PERENNIAL LARKSPURS** (Delphiniums). *Deep blue, azure, indigo, or blends with pink and mauve. Tall.*

- FLEABANE** (*Erigeron speciosus*). *Lavender with gold centre. Tall.*
- ORANGE DAISY** (*Erigeron aurantiacus*). *Orange. Medium.*
- AVENS** (*Geums*). *Scarlet, double or single. Also orange or yellow. Tall and medium.*
- HELEN FLOWER** (*Heleniums*). *All sorts suitable. Gold, orange, crimson-and-yellow. Tall.*
- SUNFLOWERS** (*Helianthus multiflorus*). *Gold. Double or single. Tall.*
- DAY LILIES** (*Hemerocallis*). *Yellow, orange, lemon. Tall.*
- HOLLYHOCKS** (*Althæas*). *Double and single. Biennials, but seldom fail to repeat themselves by seeding. Tall.*
- RED-HOT POKERS** (*Kniphofias* or *Tritomas*). *Orange-red. Often in bloom as late as November. Tall.*
- TOAD FLAX** (*Linaria dalmatica*). *Lemon-and-orange. Tall.*
- CAT MINT** (*Nepeta Mussini*). *Pale lavender. Constant bloomer. Medium.*
- EVENING PRIMROSES** (*Oenotheras Lamarckiana* and *Youngii*). *Yellow. Tall. Biennials of this family sow themselves annually.*
- PÆONIES**. *All sorts are suitable.*
- ORIENTAL POPPY** (*Papaver orientale*). *Scarlet or crimson. A gorgeous flower that should be more often seen in towns. Tall.*
- ICELAND POPPIES** (*Papaver nudicaule*). *Orange, lemon, white. Medium.*
- JERUSALEM SAGE** (*Phlomis fruticosa*). *Yellow. Tall.*
- ALPINE PHLOXES** (*Dianthus subulata* and *stellaria*). *Rose, white, lilac. Dwarf.*
- CINQUEFOILS** (*Potentillas*). *Strawberry leaved. Blends of orange, lemon, scarlet, crimson, in double florists' varieties. Medium.*
- POLYANTHUSES** (*Primula elatior*). *All colours. Some spreading light annual, such as sweet alyssum, should be sown close around polyanthus roots in April to protect them from summer heat. Dwarf.*
- BUTTERCUP** (*Ranunculus acris flore pleno*). *Gold. Double. Tall.*
- CONE FLOWERS** (*Rudbeckias*). *Orange or yellow, with brown. Tall.*
- MOSSY SAXIFRAGE** (*Saxifraga hypnoides*). *White. Dwarf.*
- STONECROPS** (*Sedums*). *Gold, white or purple. Dwarf.*



JAPANESE STONECROP (Sedum spectabile). <i>Rosy pink. Medium.</i>	virginica). <i>Royal blue, violet, white. Medium.</i>
RAGWORT (Senecios Clivorum and pulcher). <i>Gold. Rosy carmine. Tall.</i>	SPEEDWELLS (Veronicas austriaca, incana, longi- folia Spicata). <i>Blues. Medium or dwarf.</i>
SPIDERSWORT (Tradescantia	BEDDING PANSIES (Violas).

Most bulbous plants will succeed if the soil is enriched by old manure ; a special display each summer may be made with gladioli, Turban ranunculuses, Spanish irises, and lilies. Montbretias can be succeeded by the blood-red Kaffir flag, Schizostylis coccinea, in October and even November, whose bulbs should be left in the ground, but covered by cinders during winter.

Carnations and pinks of all sorts should be a feature of the very sunny town garden. A few Tea and Hybrid Tea roses should be tried.

The choice of plants for glasshouses must depend upon whether there is sunshine or shade ; in the latter case ferns and foliage plants should be the permanent inhabitants, with some calceolarias, fuchsias, tobacco plants and primulas in summer. A sun-scorched greenhouse will suit cacti, begonias, clivias, amaryllis, pelargoniums, cannas, heliotrope, crassulas and camellias, but only if there is some heating given during winter to keep out all frost. If a very hot house is left to become cold in winter it should be used for annuals only that can be raised in it early, or bought, and for chrysanthemums for early winter adornment, these being stood outside during summer.

A greenhouse that is neither very hot nor very cold naturally, one in the open garden, for instance, is exceedingly interesting if used for the more

delicate outdoor plants, of which many are called alpine; such as *Salvia japonica*, *azurea grandiflora*, and *Greigii*, cistuses, androsaces, many sedums, saxifrages, and houseleeks, lithospermums, francoas, etc.

The easiest greenhouse to manage is the one that can be kept to a heat varying between 50 and 60 degrees, by the sunshine and summer temperature, and, when those fail, by a small stove. Geraniums, fuchsias, carnations, primulas, cinerarias, genistas, spiræas, deutzias, hydrangeas, azaleas, lilioms, plumbago, even a few roses, can then be cultivated, with palms, maidenhair and asparagus ferns.

But no garden or glasshouse owner need despair, even in a town. The great thing is to choose intelligently what to grow, then learn a few plain rules of culture and apply them with unremitting care.

## CHAPTER II

### ARTIFICIAL BEDS AND BORDERS, BOXES, TUBS, BARRELS, ETC.

The Art of 'Crocking.' Obtaining Compost. Paint Colours.  
Rockerries, Basket Beds. Arches and Pillars.

A GREAT deal of floral display can be created by the use of ornamental boxes, urns, tubs or hanging baskets alone. Artificial beds and borders are of course more effective still, because they hold more plants.



AN ARTIFICIAL BED ON ASPHALT.

An artificial bed can be made anywhere, and on stone, brick, asphalt, or the leads of a roof, as simply as upon bad turf that is to be hidden or superfluous gravel. There must be first a layer of large stones with corner edges touching, that rain-water may be able to flow away : if stones are laid

with their sides touching they do not leave enough room for the water to flow through. Over these stones gardeners usually place torn-up old turves, top downwards, for these act like the charcoal in a filter. Next comes coarse earth, containing smaller bits of old turves and some little stones, and then the bed is made up of fine compost, but not dust-fine. In order to hold the earth up, in the form of a round, square or oblong bed, there must be a low bank of properly laid fresh turves, or a row of big slanted stones or strips of wood, solid or trellised ; or bricks may be employed.

A border is made similarly, only one side will be against a wall, and it should slope gently down from the wall, that wet may not lie at the back.

Any kind of box will make an ornamental receptacle for plants. Roses, tall perennials and shrubs need a three-foot or a two-foot depth of soil to grow in. Ramblers and other climbing roses, for instance, can be kept healthy in the very deep box or barrel for years ; a standard, or a vigorous Hybrid Perpetual or Hybrid Tea bush rose could not do long without a two-foot depth ; a small delicate Tea rose, or a dwarf polyantha, would be satisfied with a foot and a half or a foot. Roses often flourish in pots that have not as much depth, but then they can be repotted whenever the grower thinks best, and trees in boxes or artificial beds and borders are not usually disturbed.

Grocers sell big wooden boxes. To make one of these ready for plants there have to be holes, the size of a halfpenny, burnt out of the bottom by a red-hot poker, at four-inch intervals. In small boxes the holes for drainage should be smaller. Sometimes the wood is slit down here and there,

but the hole system is safer. If the hot poker is used to char all the wood of the bottom and the lower parts of the sides, it will not be so likely to rot.

'Crocking,' as it is called, is one of the first tasks a young gardener has to learn, and it is quite an art, for if the pieces of broken potsherds are laid clumsily over the drainage holes the water will be checked, while if the holes are not partly covered the soil will be washed through, and that will choke them. A concave piece of potsherd is usually laid, scooped-out side downwards, over each hole in a box or tub, and over the one hole in a flower-pot. Then two or three more bits, half the size of the one, are slanted against it; above these the skilled crocker casts a quarter or half a handful of smaller pieces, letting them fall lightly, and then the coarse bits of compost go in, followed by the next-coarse earth or potting mould, and finally the surface soil.

The mould should always be used just damp enough to crumble between the fingers, not stick to them. Florists and nurserymen sell potting soil, or potting loam as it is often called, for about half a crown a bushel for the best. The amateur gardener had better tell the shopman exactly what he wants potting soil for; then the right sort will be supplied. Some has manure mixed in, some can contain peat, when peat is desirable, and the quantity of other ingredients, leaf mould, fine or coarse silver sand, or road grit, also vary.

When old oil barrels are used for plants they have to be purified. This is done by turning one upside down over a lighted newspaper or wisp of straw, the flames from which will lick up all the oiliness

and just char the inside wood. Halved barrels make nice-looking tubs.

It is always wise to stand receptacles on bits of brick or blocks of wood—three or more to each—so as to raise them above the ground. Pots may be stood on a slate each, to keep worms from getting in through the drainage hole ; but large pots do better poised between two wooden laths laid on the ground. Window-boxes should be very slightly slanted by bits of wood placed underneath.

It is seldom that one sees a really artistic green paint used for colouring tubs and boxes. A crude bluish-myrtle always clashes with the leaf shades ; it is just leaves that the artist-carpenter should study as a colour chart ; if he matches the greens of ivies, plane trees, or aspidistras, for example, he cannot err. Brown is a suitable colour for painting plant receptacles, only too many all brown alike give a spotty effect to a scene. Stone grey can be used with advantage in the vicinity of bright red bricks and tiles, though by a grey, dun, or cream town house it has a depressingly cold appearance. White enamelled tubs are pretty, and well suited to some trim modern house-fronts.

A basket-bed, such as our ancestors frequently made, is merely an artificial bed, oval for preference, made very deep, with the sides held up by slanted stakes or staves, or wooden trellis, or wire netting. And the finishing touch is a simulated handle, arched from side to side, of wire or wood, or stout wires tightly wound round by straw.

Real baskets, hamper shape, make charming plant receptacles, and are durable if coated with varnish-paint. They are excellent ornaments for balconies, or verandahs by the steps, and small

handled baskets may be slung up. Wire baskets are also useful. They should be lined with old inverted turves.

To make a rockery mound anywhere is as easy as making a raised bed; the same procedure should be followed, but after the soil is piled high the stones—which ought to include some large craggy pieces—have to be arranged on it, partly embedded, so as to form convenient pockets and nooks, varied by jutting-out slabs. There is no reason why the ends of a balcony should not have pretty rockeries.

The arches and pillars set up to accommodate climbers should correspond with the style of the house. A huge mansion must not be approached under a series of narrow, low arches. A mere slice of a terrace house looks overpowered if a heavy rustic wood arch spans the entrance way.

Wooden arches and pillars should be painted with tar as far up as they are to go into the ground, as this will preserve them.

Pillars in a row from gate to porch, on one side of the path or on both, allow many pretty climbers to be cultivated.

An important enough square-topped arch makes the foundation for a 'living porch.' A low trellis fencing is often put up to keep dogs from trespassing: it will be much more effectual if a few upright sticks are nailed to it here and there, and a strip of rot-proof netting stretched above it, not too taut. Old fish netting, put up at the top of wall or fence, is one of the best expedients for keeping away cats.

## CHAPTER III

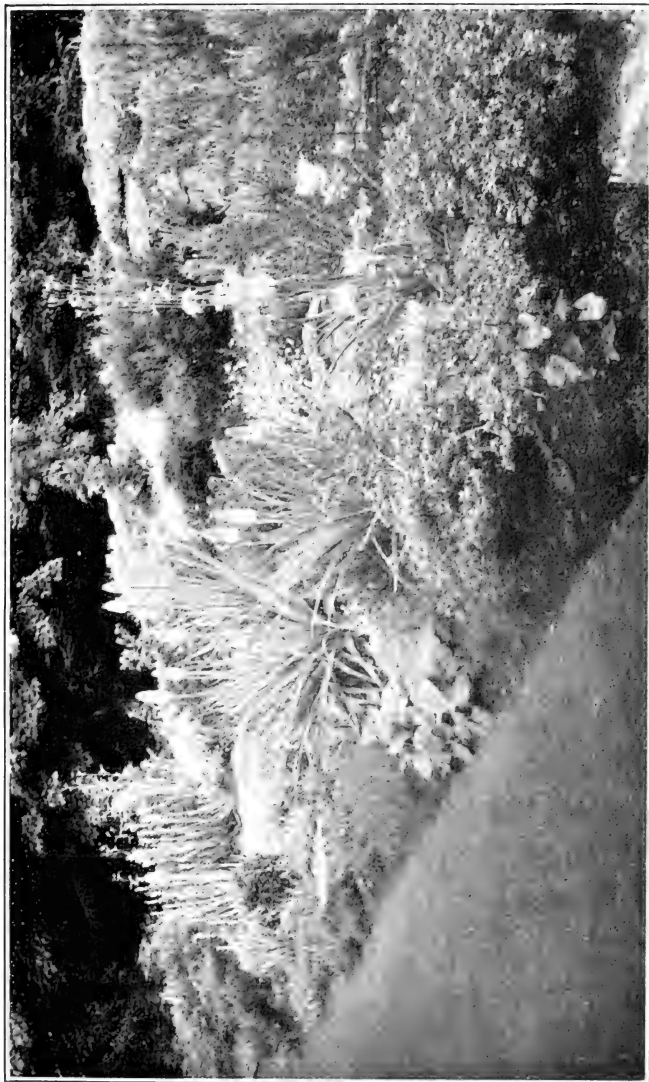
### PREPARING GARDEN SOIL AND COMPOSTS

About Lime, Sand, Soot, Leaf-mould, Cocoa-nut Fibre Refuse, etc.  
How to detect Poverty of Soil. The necessary Tools. About  
patent Fumigants, Insecticides, Fertilizers, etc.

**I**T is futile to plant in undug garden ground. No matter what the soil is supposed to be like, it must be forked over at least. The depth to which this has to be done depends partly on what is to be grown, yet a two-foot depth may be regarded as necessary for all but quite dwarf subjects, or the more usual bedding-out 'stuff,' geraniums, asters, calceolarias, lobelia, etc., which will put up with only nine or ten inches of 'worked' soil beneath them. Trees and larger kinds of evergreen or flowering shrubs want a three-foot depth of cultivated soil for their roots to penetrate. If these roots, after living in prepared soil for a time, strike down upon ground that is rock-hard or full of clinkers, bricks, etc., they are either turned aside in search of better luck, in which case the trees do no good for a year or two, or they dry up themselves, and the trees 'unexpectedly' die.

The amateur had better use a strong five-pronged





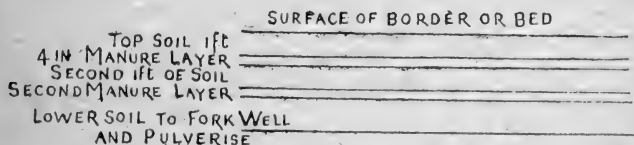
*Photo*

A WELL-PLANTED BANK

*Malby*



fork to dig with, employing a spade to shovel out soil when that is necessary. A four-inch-deep layer of old manure put in two feet below the ground surface, and another layer put in one foot below the ground surface, prepare flower-garden soil satisfactorily



SIMPLE GROUND PREPARATION.

When only bedding plants and ordinary medium tall perennials are to be cultivated, it is often sufficient to put one layer of manure at the depth of a foot, forking for a few inches below where this is to lie, then incorporating a little of the old manure, broken small, with a few handfuls of builder's lime (not unslaked lime), with all the rest of the ground above.

Lime can be bought from florists, nurserymen and builders. Unslaked lime is used to lay over insect-infested soil for a few weeks before forking it in, but the sites so treated should not be planted for several months.

Slaked, or builder's lime—lime, that is to say, that has lost its chief burning effect through being stored—can be forked in, about a pint to a three-foot by three-foot space, at any time, and planting may follow in a few days.

Lime of all kinds will damage leaves and stems if carelessly cast upon them.

Lime is precious, to the town gardener especially,

because it is a soil purifier, as well as a deterrent to, and, if often used, a destroyer of snails, slugs, wireworm, etc. Its other use is to release the chemical properties of manures, so rendering them fit for plants to feed upon.

Fresh manure, from stables, cowsheds, or roads, is only fit for nourishing ground that will not be planted for three months or so ; it is too crude to dig in just before planting. Of course, one can put it in a foot deep, and sow seeds on the surface soil, because then it will be partly decayed before the roots reach down.

Old manure, obtainable from nurseries, is dark, more or less fibrous and light, or capable of becoming light when dry. The disintegration of its constituents has brought it to a merely warming, instead of a heating, state. Extremely sandy, chalky, gravelly gardens are improved by old cow manure or mixed farmyard manure ; but old stable manure, from which all the long straw has been removed, is best for gardens of heavy or damp soil, and, indeed, for the great majority of town gardens.

If the ground cakes hard very soon after rains it needs some sharp sand or grit to render it more porous. Crushed brick-rubble, with an equal part of coarse sand, either silver sand or roadside sand, is often used to make up soil for the top portions of beds and borders.

When the gardener wishes to mix composts for himself for pot and box filling, he should obtain for his potting attic or shed, good loam, leaf-mould, very old fairly dry manure, coarse silver sand, fine silver sand, crushed brick-rubble or mortar, and roadside or river-bed sand ; also some florist's

charcoal, some old turves and old cocoa-nut fibre refuse. Old soot is a more useful ingredient for soils in the country than in towns, where lime should generally take its place, also for laying round plants to keep slugs away. The natural earth will, of course, have been sooted for years by countless chimneys, and even town-bought potting composts, or plain loam or leaf-mould, are usually very sooty. Peat is only necessary for a few subjects.

The "ordinary compost," as it is called, for growing pot plants in, consists of two parts of loam, one part of leaf-mould, and half a part of sand. Another admirable compost is made of one part loam, half parts each of old chopped manure, and leaf-mould and sand. To the first of these an eighth part of crushed brick-rubble can be added, on occasion, or slaked lime be added instead, in the proportion of a tablespoonful to a quart.

Fine silver sand is needed in the sifted compost when seed boxes are filled and seedlings potted. Gardeners can collect their own leaf-mould, but it must rot for about a year, or longer, in a place where the weather can act upon it but insects cannot make the stack their home. Oak and beech leaves are best; most leaves can be used, except those of evergreens.

Old cocoa-nut fibre refuse is very useful for mixing with the pieces of old turves that go in first over crocks, or can be used with an equal quantity of coarse loam, instead of those pieces of turf. Fresh cocoa-nut fibre refuse makes a nice mulch over beds, borders and the tops of boxes, urns, etc., greatly improving their appearance, and helping to conserve moisture in the soil, and to protect roots from sun-heat or drying winds.

There are various kinds of chemically-treated hop manures that are excellent for using when natural manures are not obtainable, or when the hop's non-odorous cleanliness is preferred.

Alas, there are town gardens so terribly poor as to surface soil—say for the first foot of surface—that this ought to be all taken away and a fresh layer of loam put on! Or this poor upper soil can be buried two or more feet deep, and the soil that has lain below be brought up to form the new surface. If the manure layers are added, as already advised, this treatment will be very efficacious.

When all the things that are alive in the garden are of a sickly colour as to foliage, and throw puny blossoms, or none at all, it is certain that they are dying very slowly of starvation in exhausted ground.

Famous results can be achieved with but a few tools. The fork and spade should be kept company by a fine rake, not too heavy or long in the rake itself, a Dutch hoe with a five- or six-inch blade, a sharp steel trowel, a small handfork, a pair of sécateurs for pruning, a sharp budding or pruning knife, and a two-inch blade steel spud. This last tool does a hundred small jobs, while the Dutch hoe could do but ten! It will enable the gardener to prick over beds and borders often, thus keeping weeds down, soil pulverized, and insects very much disheartened. It will cut the daisies, dandelions, etc., out of the turf, or trim grass edges at a pinch. It is serviceable for chopping lifted perennial roots into pieces for replanting, for giving slugs a quick and merciful death, for drawing little drills for seeds, even for drawing the soil back when seeds are sown.

There are plenty of admirable insecticides that may be used to clear ground of pests. These are soil fumigants, and are sold with instructions for their use. There are dozens of useful liquid insecticides for washes, syringings, etc. ; also weedicides and weed-killers, mildew-washes, insect-powders, fertilizers, etc. etc., to which the zealous gardener can turn for aid. The chapters given in this book about Daily Routine work contain hints for fighting most foes ; also suggest how chemical manures may be applied.

## CHAPTER IV

### PLANTING AND POTTING

Plants by Rail or Post. About Cheap Plants and Seeds. To keep Potted Plants from Flagging. Shading and Shielding Plants. Sticking and Tying Plants. A Beautiful Geranium Display. Another Attractive Filling for an Urn.

**T**HE month of May is usually the time when the town dweller most wants to garden. He is right, if he must buy plants, but March is the month for starting seed sowings if plants are not to be bought, and it should never be forgotten that the planting season for roses, and most trees and shrubs, is from October to April.

May having arrived, an order is probably sent by post to some advertising florist, with the result that it has to 'get into the queue' with orders that have been arriving for months past. So the goods are not delivered till the weather is too hot for planting to be safe. The garden-owner who has been delayed had far better go to a florist's shop or a nurseryman's grounds and select what he requires. Delightful day or half-day trips can be made to famous nurseries within twenty miles of London; and most big provincial towns have noted growers in their neighbourhood.

When trees, roses or shrubs are received by rail



or post, their roots should be examined, for if these are dry they should be 'puddled' (or dipped in manured mud) before being planted. Or, if planting has to be delayed a few weeks, let a trough about a foot deep be dug in the garden, water poured in, the trees laid in slanted, the soil raked over and made only slightly firm. The green portions of the travellers should be frequently syringed, and a semi-shady position is best for the trench. If there is no garden, some soil in boxes can take the place of a trench. The true gardener is nothing if not ingenious.

To order the cheapest goods is to court failure. If one selects poor plants one does at least sin with one's eyes open, but cheap plants or trees sent for are sure to look astoundingly cheap when they arrive. As for cheap seeds, there is just this to be said—there may be a few good ones among the rubbish. Cheap bulbs are bound to be either aged bulbs, bulbs dried up through keeping, or bulbs too juvenile to bloom. A few fine specimens in an otherwise rather bare garden are more satisfactory than a garden crammed with miserable plants. Needless to say, the very best quality in plants, etc., should be used for boxes, pots, urns and wherever the space is extremely precious.

We have already noted how pots, etc., are crocked and filled with compost for the reception of plants. Now a word about actual planting. It should be the worker's aim to make things so firm that they will remain upright when buffeted by wind and rain, yet not so squeezed into the soil that the roots are stifled and cannot penetrate further. A geranium will bear ramming in firmly; a carnation never thrives so treated. The surface half-inch should

generally be quite loose, above the firmer soil. There is an art in giving the pot a rap or two on the potting bench, bottom downwards, to settle the soil and make the surface lie evenly. To leave a saucer-like hollow round the stem is wrong, except for a few plants that must never dry up, such as oleanders. To pile a hillock against the stem is wrong, for that means that water will always run off and descend only by the rim of the pot or box. Roots should be very tenderly tucked round by fine sandy soil, after they have been spread out as evenly as possible. If a rose-tree or plant has its roots all on one side, however, they must not be spread in all directions, but a stick will have to be placed to support the stem opposite to the roots, *behind* the stem. Stakes and sticks, with ties, should be given while potting is done to all plants that are to have them and are large enough.

Plants frequently flag, may even lose most of their leaves, after being potted; the ideal treatment of newly-potted or repotted plants is placing them in air-tight frames for twenty-four hours. Deep boxes, glass covered, will serve for frames, or oiled linen will serve for glass. Sprinkle the foliage well, water the soil through the fine rose of a can, then leave them alone for a day and a night, after which give a little air, more by degrees.

In hot May, June, or July, weather plants require shading from sun-heat for twenty-four to thirty-six hours after potting. If they are near a window, or the conservatory glass, a piece of thick muslin should be tacked up between, or else laid right over them. Sheets of newspaper, or the cheap crinkled paper in cream or pale green, are useful to slip in for screens behind plants in a greenhouse. During

spells of cold winds a little screening should shelter repotted plants.

Tender handling is always essential : a geranium even, or ordinary hardy fuchsia, will shed leaves that are bruised, cracked or muddled.

Sticks ought not to be too prominent nor too thick, and painting them the same green that is shown by the leaves of the plant is a most artistic device. Green wool is a fine material for tying, as it does not cut stems ; green ' raffia ' is stronger for large plants.

One quick way to adorn a house front is to prepare window boxes, and two large boxes, tubs, split barrels (or ornamental stone or rustic vases) to stand by the door steps, then order mixed dark red, scarlet, salmon and white geraniums to fill them. The plants may be rather crowded in, as this induces them to bloom instead of making lavish foliage. Small plants of only about half a dozen leaves can stand six inches apart, bigger ones at nine-inch distances. The show of the mixed varieties will be more interesting than one of all red. Another idea would be to order carmine, deep rose, pale pink, blush and white flowering geraniums.

A charming scheme for an urn or tub is to plant all the soil with tufts of blue lobelia, three inches apart, and sink a pot rose in the middle. A dwarf polyantha rose will be best, either pink or white. Mrs. Cutbush and Ma Paquerette, Mignonette and Anne Marie de Montravel are capital varieties.

## CHAPTER V

### SEEDS, CUTTINGS, ETC.

How to Sow and Cover. Outdoor Seed Beds. Sweet Peas. Hardy Annuals. Dahlias and Chrysanthemums. Tuberous Begonias. Small Greenhouse Plants from Seed. Clematis Jackmanii. Other Climbers to Plant.

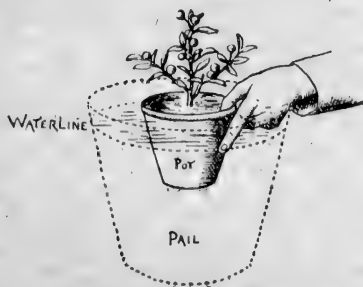
**S**EEDS are sown in boxes, pans or pots. There are reasons for choosing one sort of receptacle for some kinds of flower seeds, another kind for others. It is a question of good judgment. Begonia seed, which is very fine, will illustrate this: if sown over the surface soil (it is not covered in, or, if at all, only by a little fine silver sand) there is a great depth of soil below, whereas in a seed-pan or shallow box there is only a two, or three, inch depth. The greater the quantity of compost the more difficult it is to keep it just moist enough and never too moist. If the compost in the pot became waterlogged it would turn sour, or else mildewy, and the begonia seedlings, either the sprouts just starting or the visible green seedlings, would rot off. Yet no seed will germinate without sufficient moisture, so it is prudent to cover all pans, boxes, or pots of sown seed with a sheet, or many little overlapping pieces, of glass. These should be turned daily and wiped, and no water should be administered until the surface soil looks really dry.

Then strong sunshine on the glass would probably scorch up the seedlings, so gardeners lay some white paper or a little dry moss upon the glass. The danger with moss is that it may not be absolutely insect-free. However, baking it in a hot oven for a few minutes will make it harmless.

There is no hard and fast rule as to the depth to which seeds are to be covered in with sifted compost, but the general idea is that it may be to the same depth as their own greatest size. Take a little wallflower seed in the fingers, note that it is longer than it is broad; sow it, and then lightly scatter as much fine compost as would be necessary to quite cover it stood on end.

Time that is spent in sowing, one by one, seeds that are not too minute to be picked up, is never time wasted. Overcrowded seed means not only that much seed is wasted, because the seedlings are crushed to death, but, even after a lot of thinning out has been done, the remaining seedlings will be much weaker than if they had grown in sufficient space from the first.

The soil seeds are sown in should be perfectly



SAFE PLANT WATERING, BY PARTIAL IMMERSION.

level, so that water will not lie in tiny pools, firm without being hard, and sufficiently moist for the seeds to adhere but not float.

It is always best to water seed receptacles from the bottom, not the top. This is done by holding the pot, box or pan up to the very rim in tepid water for a minute or two. When the moisture is seen to be appearing at the surface, making the compost dark, the watering has been successfully performed. Needless to say, seed receptacles must all be properly drained, but it is enough to use inverted crocks over holes or cracks, then fill up with ordinary compost, giving a surface half-inch, or inch, of very fine sifted compost. In the case of using pots, however, for any delicate subjects, there ought to be small stones or broken-up crocks for an inch above the inverted crocks, or else some coarse lumpy compost.

The more delicate the nature of the plant that is to be raised, the more desirable is silver sand in the compost. Equal portions of loam, leaf-mould and silver sand is a good seed compost. Manure is not needed, and would be harmful in some instances.

The compost for striking cuttings in may be the same. Before inserting a cutting, however, scatter enough silver sand on to hide the soil, then make the hole with a pencil, penholder, or round stick of suitable size ; this will thrust sand down with it. Insert the cutting, press the soil tightly round it with the finger-tips, add more compost so that the level is maintained ; sprinkle the foliage, then enclose the pot, pan, or box in a frame, or glass-covered box or cover it by a bell-glass. Cuttings should have their lowest leaves cleanly removed.

Cuttings of fuchsias and geraniums will root quite

easily in May, June and July under glass, shaded from sun-heat.

Seeds of *begonia semperflorens* varieties, *primula obconica*, *primula malacoides*, the Fairy primrose, or the little trailing fuchsia *procumbens*, sown in glass-covered pans inside a sunny window-will produce plants for early winter bloom in a warmed greenhouse.

Seed sowing in town gardens is usually work thrown away, so if there is no greenhouse a small frame is almost a necessity. The next best plan is to choose the best possible site, quite in the open (or in front of a south, south-west or south-east facing wall, fence or hedge, some two or three feet from it), and make a raised bed to sow seeds in. It should be treated with a soil fumigant, or else deluged several times with a weak solution of carbolic liquid, be many times forked over during the following week, and will then be ready for use. A seed-bed must be quite surrounded by strip paths of sharp cinders, not soft ashes, as then slugs and snails will not cross to it.

A seed-bed may be made in a deep box if there is no garden.

Sometimes a town garden is fairly healthy and not infested by insects. If runner-beans are known to flourish in it there is no reason why sweet-peas should not, if safeguarded from birds by having several lines of black cotton stretched to little upright sticks about four inches above where the seedlings will appear. Sow at three or four-inch distances, after soaking the seed for at least twelve hours. Carbolic powder, sparingly cast along the rows, will be a sensible precaution.

In this fairly good garden seeds of many hardy

annuals, not the largest-growing, may be sown, although May and June are very late months. Candytufts, Virginian stock, gilia tricolor, scarlet flax, small varieties of mignonette, sweet alyssum, night-scented stock, the rose of heaven (*Agrostemma cœli-rosea*), orange *erysimum Peroffskianum* and *Viscaria cardinalis* are suitable.

Double and single tuberous begonias are easy to cultivate if bought as bulbs of flowering size. They have to be laid on damp sand, inside a warm window, or in a frame or greenhouse, until they sprout. Actual sun-heat should be kept off them. As soon as the sprouts are a quarter of an inch long the tubers can be put one into each three-inch wide pot of sandy compost. When the pots are root-filled and the weather genial the begonias can be planted in beds, window-boxes, etc., or be given pots of five-inch diameter.

Musk may be sown in pots now, stood inside windows; the seedlings must be thinned out to one inch apart.

The town gardener can hope to succeed also with *oxalis rosea*, one of our prettiest pot plants, having shamrock-like leaves and gay rose blossom. It is similar to musk in its requirements, for it may be cut down, when it has flowered itself out, and if given a top-dressing of manure-and-loam compost and kept watered, will soon bloom again. Also it may, like musk, be occasionally divided, and portions of its clump put an inch or two apart into other pots, window-boxes, tubs, etc. Both plants, and dwarf lobelias, are pretty in hanging baskets.

During May clematises from pots may be planted. It is necessary to dig a deep wide place, fork the bottom, lay in old manure, and partly fill in with



good soil first. A clematis put in above that will be almost sure to thrive. A little old chopped manure may be mixed with all the upper soil.

Clematis *Jackmanii* will clothe a town house front gloriously, perhaps help to form a porch, or run up to be trained horizontally along a balcony's railing. There is a deep purple variety, in addition to the familiar violet-purple, also a white (*alba*) and a crimson (*rubra*). They are best suited by a west aspect, in my experience, but south-west is excellent, and north-west often succeeds. Full exposure on a south wall is generally too scorching.

In late May and June young plants of dahlias, and early-flowering chrysanthemums, should be bought and added to the garden borders, in sunshine or else potted up, or potted-on rather, as they are sure to be in pots already. They can be stood out. Carbolic powder should be scattered all round them.

A beautiful climber to obtain, in a pot, ready for turning out against wall, fence or trellis, is the Climbing Knotweed (*Polygonum Baldschuanicum*), a perennial that dies down each winter and puts forth vigorous growth of reddish stems and red-shaded leaves each spring. The florescence is whitish, in panicles, having a mist-like effect in June and July, but the next stage is one of myriads of creamy seed-vessels that are as decorative as flowers. A south or south-west aspect is desirable.

Then by buying three or four plants of the purple bellflower (*Cobæa scandens*) and putting them in rich soil in front of Virginian creepers, the town dweller can gain an uncommon and lovely flower show all summer and autumn, provided there is no stint with water. *Cobæas* will climb in a greenhouse even faster than out of doors, and may be

cultivated on sunny balconies or in glass porches. Three plants are enough for a tub or ten-inch pot. They can endure a sooty atmosphere if syringed twice or three times a week.



HYDRANGEAS



## CHAPTER VI

### DAILY ROUTINE AND SEASONABLE WORK

#### GENERAL TASKS FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY

**P**ATHS and lawns require rolling after rainy weather, and should be frequently swept with a birch broom, as this removes ant-hills and worm-casts.

Lawn sand can be applied to portions of lawns to destroy weeds, as it works most efficaciously in hot weather. Still a great deal may be done by up-rooting dandelions, etc., and transplanting grass 'weeds' from borders or paths into the holes, after clipping the blades short.

A slight sprinkling of any good fertilizer will do old lawns good, after rain has washed it in. Lawns that are used for games, or much trodden, need watering in seasons of drought if in the open. Tree-shaded lawns are usually damp enough in summer and too damp at other times.

Lawns should be cut twice a week, if possible, but it is usually sufficient to clip the edges once a week, and use the sharp crescent-bladed turf-edge-cutter once a month.

If a lawn is badly worm-infested a solution should be made of one pound of slaked lime in four gallons of water, and left to stand three days. Then the clear liquid must be poured off, free from the sediment, and applied to the turf through a fine-rosed watering-can. If this is done some damp early morning, after a thorough rolling the previous evening, the worms will come up to the surface and may be swept off in quantity.

Rose-trees becoming infested with green-fly should be syringed after sundown with a solution of four ounces of soft-soap and one dessertspoonful of paraffin in two gallons of water. Next morning, early, they should be syringed with plain water. These operations, repeated three times, with a day's interval between, will cure the pest in almost all cases.

Box edgings can be clipped into shape ; also all clipped evergreens.

The greenhouse plants should be watered with discrimination every evening, and syringed two or three times a week at least.

Plants must be shaded from fierce sunshine through glass roofs, either by whitening the latter, or nailing muslin or tiffany across it, if there is no natural canopy of climbers. Leaves of all pot plants under cover, except 'woolly' leaves, such as those of begonias, geraniums and primulas, should be sponged once a week if large enough. Spraying is always safe.

Any of the fairly robust pot plants, such as geraniums, pelargoniums, heliotrope and hydrangeas, that are infested by insects can be dipped quickly in a solution of four ounces of soft-soap in six gallons of water. This must be done in the evening, as

sunshine must not fall on them till they are dry. They must be dipped in plain water the following evening.

A glasshouse that is badly infested can best be made clean and healthy by fumigating it every other evening for six days. There are little vapour cones sold by florists, that only need to be set alight and left to smoulder out, after all doors and windows have been closed. They should be stood on the stone or brick flooring and used scrupulously according to the special instructions supplied.

Keep dead flowers picked off sweet-peas before seeds can form.

If carnations in the border die off mysteriously sink some partly hollowed-out halves of potatoes, smeared with fat, just below the soil, after sticking a small stick through each to show its whereabouts and enable the trap to be quickly lifted for examination and reburied.

Lay lettuce and cabbage leaves, fat-smeared, downwards on borders to trap slugs.

Place damp hay in some small pots that have been smeared with grease, and invert them on stakes among the dahlias, hollyhocks, roses, etc.

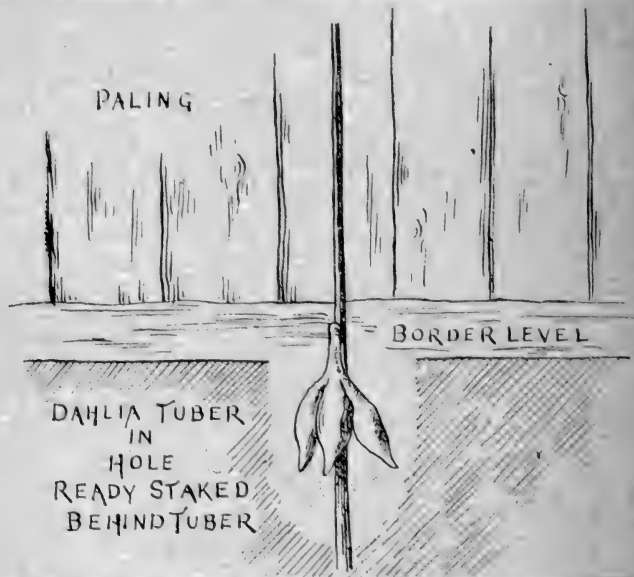
Water indoor ferns, aspidistras, aralias, etc., more as the weather becomes warmer.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR MAY

Plant out young dahlias, or divided sprouting old tubers, late in the month, in very well manured soil, in sunshine, or in rich compost, three plants to a split barrel, or one plant to a ten-inch pot. Examine the tubers carefully before dividing them, to be sure that each piece severed has an 'eye.' However

great the pains taken, no divided portion not possessed of an 'eye' can sprout, and the 'eyes' are situated round the collar of the tubers.

Propagate pinks, of the garden hardy sort, by pulling off little shoots with rootlets already forming from the base and old stems, and plant them in



HOW TO PLANT DAHLIAS.

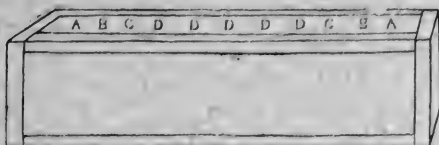
lines in semi-shade or at intervals of an inch round the edges of pans or large pots, in cold greenhouses, frames, or stood out of doors. Use sandy compost and keep their foliage sprinkled.

Fill window-boxes, urns, tubs, baskets, etc., for



adorning real city houses and gardens, with dwarf miniature-leaved varieties of ivies, Creeping Jenny, London pride, Rose of Sharon, scented-leaved geraniums (which can be often dipped in water), hartstongue ferns, lobelia erinus, musk, and small specimens of berberises, cotoneasters, euonymuses, boxes, Japanese honeysuckle, arbor vitæ, veronica glauca-cœrulea, hypericum patulum, symphoricarpus radicans (the snowberry tree).

Add to actual or artificial borders or beds, at the end of May, calceolarias, geraniums, carnations (from pots), dwarf French marigolds, lobelia erinus,



WINDOW-BOX FOR NOT HIDING A FAIR VIEW.

A Pink ivy-leaved geranium.  
B Fuchsia procumbens.

C Carmine ivy-leaved geranium.  
D Pink begonia semperflorens.

snapdragons, sweet-williams, willow-leaved beet and ordinary crimson beet, early-flowering chrysanthemums, kochia tricophylla (the summer cypress that takes on autumn tints), the common house leek (*Sempervivum tectorum*), yellow stonecrop (*Sedum acre*), orange stonecrop (*Sedum kamschaticum variegatum*), Japanese stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile*), often two feet tall with heads of rosy flower in late autumn, miniature sweet alyssums, Pigmy dwarf nasturtiums, and variegated arabis and periwinkle for the sake of their leaves.

Charming combinations of the above can be

made, and the subjects advised for window-boxes, etc., can be used in beds, and those recommended for beds may be tried in boxes, urns, barrels, etc. Many, too, will be useful for pot culture.

Musk, dwarf lobelias and miniature sweet alyssum will spring up from seed in pots in hot windows even of the Strand, and Cupid sweet-peas have been known to grow from seed (three seeds in a seven-inch pot—seven-inch diameter, of course) in Bethnal Green!

In suburban places there is no danger in using all the usual bedding plants. A consideration of what grows in town parks will teach town dwellers that smuts are not to be too much dreaded. Roof-top gardens are the best for plants in crowded districts, owing to there being no walls to draw them up into a thin, lanky condition and to exclude air and sun from them. But in the suburbs, verbenas, stocks, asters, marguerites, petunias, begonias, geraniums, Swan river daisies and dwarf snapdragons are but a few of the favourites that will flourish.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR JUNE

Watch for grubs in the rose buds, and young leaf shoots, and pinch them out, cutting back damaged portions of the branches.

Stand most of the room plants out, in semi-shade, when gentle rain is falling.

Fill the *worst*-situated receptacles or garden ground now, as no frosts need be feared.

Remember that a fine show of Tom Thumb dahlias, from plants bought now, can be had among the stones of a sunny rockery, even if it be but an

area slope. These ten-to-twelve-inch dahlias are very bright in effect.

A shady area slope will look cheerful if planted all over with variegated periwinkle, with sunk pot shrubs at intervals, suitable sorts being golden privet and euonymus, and berberis aquifolium. These shrubs should be removed in November and kept growing in cold greenhouses, frames, or rooms.

Shady areas in the suburbs, where houses are not very high and have air-spaces between them, are fit for most of the bedding plants and perennials advised for shady gardens.

Sow some pots of mignonette, thin out to five seedlings in each six-inch pot, keep them outside until September's end, then enjoy the flowers indoors. The seedlings should have their tips pinched off when they are six inches high to encourage bushy growth.

Sow three seeds of the trailing fuchsia (*Fuchsia procumbens*) in a four-inch pot, under or behind glass. Pot on when roots show at the base. Sink the pot in moss in a hanging wire basket in a sunny window. Beautiful trails of leaf and blossom will result.

Keep dead roses cut off trees.

Continue to bed out, or plant dahlias or chrysanthemums.

Cut down spring-bloomed perennials.

Sow dwarf sweet alyssum over bare spaces on sunny rockeries, or to carpet among tall plants in ornamental garden vases, window-boxes, beds, etc.

Sow wallflowers for next year in a very shallow drill across open ground. Lay down some sweet-pea faggots over the filled-in drill to keep birds off.

Water the garden if there is a spell of drought.

One thorough soaking is right in a week, two are better, but 'a little watering' done wholesale every evening is disastrous. A portion of a garden can be deluged at a time, another portion the next evening or early morning.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR JULY

Tie green-grey wool round the sheaths of opening carnations that might otherwise burst.

Gather rose petals for potpourri.

Syringe rose-trees that have done their first flowering; cut their branches back that have borne blooms.

Give some old decayed manure as a mulch to the roses, all but those that have not been planted a year.

Give weak liquid manure to dahlias that are growing well; also to roses, hollyhocks, delphiniums, pansies, verbenas, stocks, asters, heliotrope, fuchsias and sweet-peas. Geraniums do not flower well if overfed, but most other bedding plants do better for extra nourishment.

Peg down verbenas and ivy-leaved geraniums.

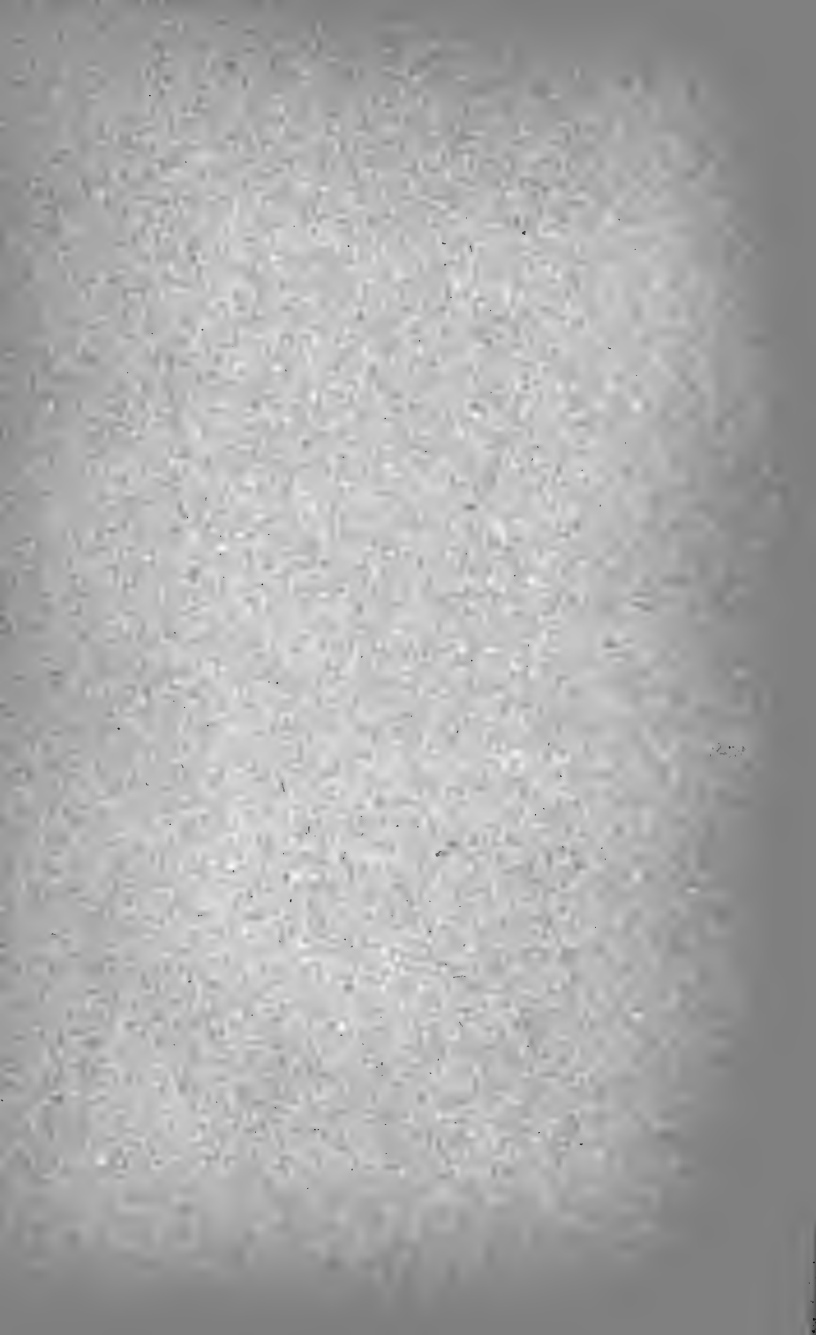
Lift bulbs of ranunculuses, anemones, tulips, hyacinths, etc., lay them on newspaper in dry sunny sheds or rooms to dry for a week or so, then wipe each and store in perfectly dry sawdust or chaff, or chopped-up baked heather or moss, or old dry broken-up cocoa-nut fibre refuse.

Give sticks and ties to all plants that need them.

Nail loose trails of climbers to the walls.

Pot some bulbs of freesias in ordinary potting compost, putting them one inch deep and two inches apart, in any sized pots, those of four and a

half or five inch diameter being best. Stand the pots in shade in airy rooms, greenhouse or frames, and avoid giving much water: the soil must not get quite dry, but too much moisture will mean failure. More will be required as the plants grow. Bring them into sunshine when growth is a few inches high.



## Part II

# WORK IN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER

### CHAPTER VII

## KEEPING UP THE FLOWER DISPLAY

Reserve Plants. Frames in Yards and on Porch-tops. How to add to Beds and Boxes. The Art of removing Plants. Early-flowering Chrysanthemums, Kochias, Beets, etc. Refilling Window-boxes. Meadow-saffrons, etc.

**N**O matter what plants the town-house occupier specializes in for the summer show, he should have a few too many, and keep those growing on, somehow and somewhere, so as to replace any of the flowering or foliage specimens that fail. There are bound to be misfortunes and accidents. It is easy to imagine the doleful appearance of a bed of dwarf blue asters in which two plants turned out to be violet, or of a stone vase by the hall door in which three of the ring of red begonias, surrounding a white marguerite, had perished. In window-boxes any awkward gap will spoil the whole display.

If there is only a backyard, supposing it receives some sunshine, a fair-sized garden-frame will prove of immense value. A flat roof-top will be an even better site for one; the sun-heat will not be too fierce if some old Japanese reed mats are kept to lay over the glass or over the open frame, or to fasten to thin erect bamboo canes as a screen. The bamboo canes answer delightfully if their lower lengths can slip into sockets of iron affixed to the wood of the frame, and the screens serve, in chilly times, as shelter from winds.

There is often a large roof above the porch, in a town house, either entered upon through a staircase window or by a balcony. This should be made the foundation of a really fine plant-show, of course, but it can be turned into real use as well, if a long narrow frame for growing things in is placed at the edge nearest the road. It will be hidden by the parapet, and the plant display may rise just behind it, leaving the gardener space at the two sides to visit it in comfort. Many ironmongers and florists stock small deep frames that could be used end to end.

In these frames, shaded and sheltered by the parapet, the surplus begonias, stocks, asters, verbenas, geraniums, etc. etc., can be grown on in readiness to fill gaps. They may also be used for taking cuttings in, say of calceolarias, geraniums, fuchsias, pansies, violas and carnations; for receiving seed-pans and boxes of pricked-out seedlings.

When making any addition to beds, tubs or boxes, it is necessary to get the soil into fit condition, neither too dry nor too wet, which a watering overnight usually secures, and also to prepare



similarly the soil round the plants that are to be lifted or turned out of pots. Then they will 'come away,' dug out by the trowel or released from pots, with what is known as 'ball of soil intact,' and the roots will not only have no rough usage, but need not know they are moved from one place to another. This being so, neither foliage nor blooms will flag.

I have moved a dwarf hybrid perpetual rose-bush in July, when it was in full flower, and replanted it in another part of a garden, by this method, without there being the slightest check to its growth or injury to its health; but this necessitates the utmost care, of course, and deep and wide digging by a spade. I do not recommend the attempt to be made by any amateur, but merely describe it here as an illustration of how simply any *small* plants can be removed safely.

Even when no plants have failed in beds or receptacles, some may have proved stunted, or have yellowed foliage, or have insisted on growing too lanky, instead of bushy, so make a bad effect.

Even when none of these troubles have occurred the beds or receptacles may look rather bare, and then a store of blue or white lobelia, of dwarf chrysanthemum-flowered asters, dwarf French marigolds, the iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), pigmy godetias, stocks, violas, etc., will justify its existence.

Crimson beet is a serviceable tall plant to keep in reserve, and summer cypresses (*Kochi trico-phylla*), each in a small pot, may be either used to add to insufficient plant displays or be potted on once or twice to make pretty plants to use on the dining-table or in the drawing-room.

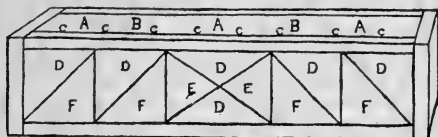
A favourite expedient of my own is to dig up a portion of a front-garden edging of mossy saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*) in the middle of summer, and set its dainty green tufts as a close carpet to beds, or tubs, where the flowering plants stand rather too widely apart. By October's end the saxifrage tufts will be happy little plants to use for winter bedding, or for making edgings and additions to rock-gardens; variegated arabis, purple rock cress (*Aubrietia*) may be similarly treated.

Annual plants, such as larkspurs, stocks, asters, clarkias, that bloom early in the summer, frequently go yellow now and begin to die. Well, the town-dweller need only repair to the nearest florist, purchase some early-flowering chrysanthemums, just budding in pots, and turn these out, balls of soil intact, as described. They will give him ample reward a little later. Or, as the year begins to think of waning, it will be better to sink the pot chrysanthemums, with a view to housing any that have not done flowering when frost threatens.

Naturally, geraniums in pots, and countless other of the plants florists offer, can be used in these ways, only the town-gardener seldom knows where to keep large quantities of delicate plants during winter. The chrysanthemums can be cut down in November, and packed closely in a box of a little soil, have some more soil thrown over them, then be stored in an attic by a window that is often open. With a minimum of watering they will survive till spring, then can be divided and replanted or repotted, or, if placed in warmth, will send forth shoots that can be detached as already rooted 'cuttings.' Old newspapers will suffice to keep frost from them in the attic, whereas succulent-

stemmed geraniums might generate moisture, turn mildewy, or succumb through the cold. Fuchsias are easier to keep than are geraniums or marguerites.

If the window-boxes have to be wholly refilled now, early chrysanthemums are quite the best plants, and the grey-leaved, yellow-and-scarlet blossomed, succulent *Echeveria secunda glauca*, sold



A TILE-FRONTED WINDOW-BOX.

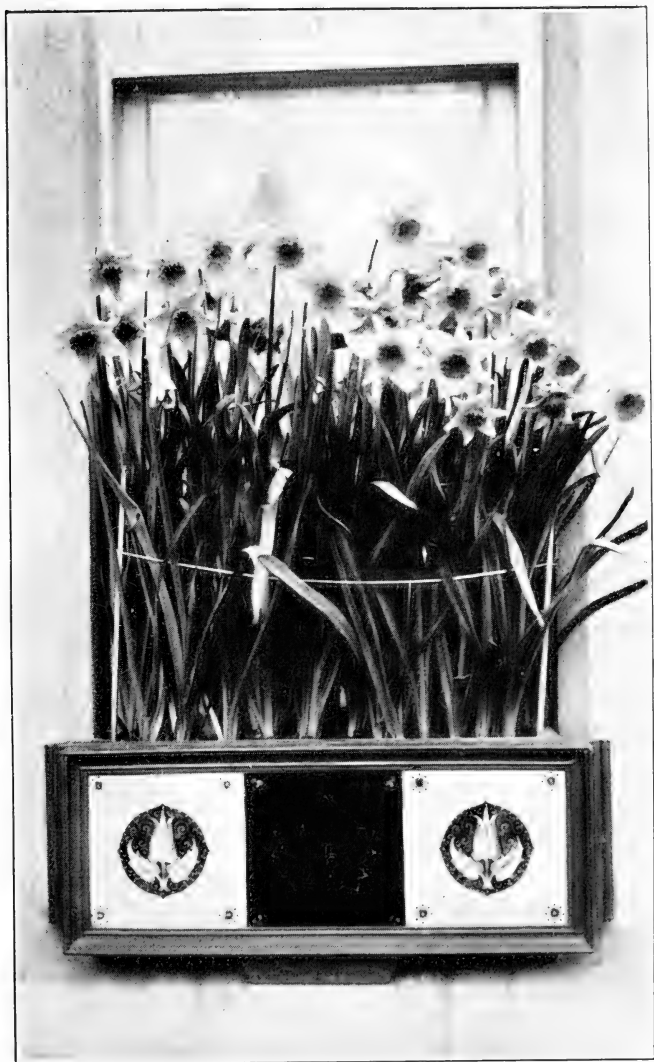
A Green euonymus.  
B Gold chrysanthemums.  
C *Echeveria secunda glauca*.

D Pale blue tiles.  
E Deep blue tiles.  
F Cream tiles.

by all florists, will be a pretty, inexpensive edging, that will be neat and effective as soon as installed. *Echeverias* may be placed closely together in large pots, or singly in small ones, to be housed during winter.

There is a charming method for refurnishing semi-shady window-boxes, urns, etc. Buy some miniature variegated euonymuses that can do duty until next June, then plant among them bulbs of meadow-saffrons (*Colchicums*), three inches apart, two inches deep. These are flowers shaped like giant crocuses; the common kind is a lovely peach-mauve, and there are crimson, purple and white varieties that cost much more. Their marvellous merit is that they will bloom about six to nine weeks after the bulbs are planted, and then the foliage will appear and make a nice carpet.

A few ordinary crocuses and snowdrops put in among this carpet in November will make a pleasing note later in front of the variegated shrubs. But let the purchaser of all the bulbs make sure that he obtains those of flowering size. It is often worth while to fill a garden border with thousands of young bulbs, to grow on for the future, but the town-house front demands the mature and very best.



*Photo*

*Vasey*

NARCISSI IN THE WINDOW BOX



## CHAPTER VIII

### HOW TO GROUP POT PLANTS

Hardy Plants for Groups. Foliage Subjects. How to Grow Them.  
How to make Groups—and Where.

**T**HERE are probably a hundred amateur gardeners able to grow pot plants to two or three individuals able to group them satisfactorily. Sometimes failure is bound to be, because of an insufficiency of mosses, ferns, foliage and cluster plants with which to hide the pots of their taller comrades.

Now a winter-heated greenhouse seldom forms part of the town establishment, so hosts of suitable dainty plants must be avoided and hardy ones cultivated. It is a refreshing fact that these will be inexpensive. Some of them may be obtained by lifting and potting portions of plants that happen to be in the borders; if this is done in the hot months of the year they must be kept cool and shaded for several days afterwards; others can be bought, in small pots, ready for use; others may only be obtainable in masses, in boxes, then should be potted.

The following are reliable, dwarf, calculated to show off the colours of the flowers beneath which

they are to make a foliage-and-floral carpet without so much as an inch of pottery remaining visible.

- ARABIS. *Plain and variegated.*
- GOLD DUST (*Alyssum saxatile*).
- STONECROPS. *Gold,\* white, orange, purple and red.*
- MOSSY SAXIFRAGES. *White and rosy flowering.*
- SAXIFRAGA FORTUNEI. *White.*
- LONDON PRIDE (*Saxifraga umbrosa*).
- SAXIFRAGA CRUSTRATA. *Silvered rosette foliage.*
- OXALIS ROSEA. *Pink.*
- OXALIS VALVIDIANA. *Yellow.*
- CREEPING JENNY (*Lysimachia nummularia*). *Green or gold leaved with yellow flowers.*
- LOBELIA ERINUS. *In all colours.*
- LITHOSPERMUM PROSTRATUM. *A dwarf evergreen of spreading habit that has blue blossom.*
- KENILWORTH IVY (*Linaria cymbalaria*). *Pale lilac.*
- PERENNIAL CANDYTUFT (*Iberis sempervirens*). *White.*
- HYPERICUM EMPETRIFOLIUM. *Yellow.*
- HYPERICUM POLYPHYLLUM. *Yellow.*
- ALUM ROOTS (*Heucheras*). *All have clusters of attractive leaves, from which rise*
- tall, light stems of red, rose or white blossom.*
- HAWKWEED (*Hieracium aurantiacum*). *Orange.*
- GERANIUM CINEREUM. *One of the true geraniums, or cranes' bills, whereas the greenhouse 'geraniums' are really pelargoniums. Pale pink.*
- GERANIUM ENDRESSII. *Deep rose.*
- GERANIUM PROSTRATUM. *Magenta.*
- SPLEENWORT (*Asplenium trichomanes*). *Fern.*
- HOLLY FERN (*Aspidium lonchitis*).
- PARSLEY FERN (*Allosorus crispus*).
- POLYPODIUM VULGARE CAMBRICUM. *Fern.*
- THE BRITTLE BLADDER FERN. (*Cystopteris fragilis*). *Will succeed, if given a compost of peat, silver sand, loam, and coco-nut fibre refuse rubbed into powder.*
- PLANTAIN LILIES (*Funkias lancifolia* and *lancifolia albamarginata*). *Lilac. A foot tall, with spreading leaves.*
- SNOW-IN-SUMMER (*Cerastium*). *Silver foliage.*
- BELLFLOWERS (*Campanulas portenschlagiana*, *isophylla alba*, *garganica*,



- fragilis, carpatica). *Violet, white, blue.*
- SANDWORT (*Arenaria olearica*). *White.*
- GOLDEN SANDWORT (*Arenaria verna cæspitosa aurea*). *Gold foliage.*
- WOODRUFF (*Asperula odorata*). *White.*
- THRIFTS (*Armerias cephalotes, lauchæana* and *plantaginea*). *Rose, crimson or white.*
- TRAILING SNAPDRAGON (*Antirrhinum glutonisum*). *Cream.*
- KIDNEY VETCH (*Anthyllis montana*). *Rose.*
- CAT'S EAR (*Antennaria candida*). *Silver leaves. Pink bloom.*
- BUGLE (*Ajuga reptans atropurpurea*). *Purple-bronze leaves.*
- HEN-AND-CHICKEN HOUSE LEEK (*Sempervivum globiferum*). *Yellow.*
- COMMON HOUSE LEEK (*Sempervivum tectorum*). *Pale red.*
- LAMBS' WOOL (*Stachys lanata*). *Silver woolly leaves.*
- MOCK MAIDENHAIR (*Thalictrum minus adiantifolium*).
- FOAM FLOWER (*Tiarella cordifolia*). *Fern-like leaves, flowers like a miniature creamy meadow-sweet.*
- BRONZE-LEAVED FOAM FLOWER (*Tiarella purpurea*). *Flowers rose.*
- TRIFOLIUM REPENS PENTAPHYLLUM. *Bronze and green leaves. Flowers white.*
- SPEEDWELL (*Veronica gentianoides variegata*). *Creamy-marked foliage. Blue flowers.*

There are countless other hardy plants and ferns that can be well grown in cold greenhouses, frames, or room windows where air is freely admitted; the gardener who learns to delight in the variegated tufts of the Speedwell named, for example, should inquire after other dwarf members of the family; the lover of one stonecrop, house leek, or saxifrage, will find dozens more waiting for his patronage.

Among larger foliage subjects of extreme value in making groups of fairly hardy pot plants are taller plantain lilies, hardy geraniums, saxifrages and outdoor maidenhairs (*Thalictrums*); and their blossoms add, of course, to their value. Aralias,

eucalyptus citriodora, lemon verbena, French lavender, like palms and aspidistras, only require to be kept safe from all frost.

Then there are annuals of great foliage value that should have been sown or purchased earlier, of which the Golden Feather (*Pyrethrum aureum*) is a popular example.

A group of plants against a wall, or other background, should have the greatest height behind, either as a clump in the middle back row, or to form the whole back row except for the edge, which may be a single, double, or triple edging of dwarf and semi-dwarf growers.

A group in an open space may have the highest plants in the middle, or in clusters all over the space, or as single specimen plants rising at even distances.

A pyramid can be built up easily, so that all the foliage represents a sloped mass, of sugar-loaf shape, and the blossoms either repeat this shape themselves, or rise gracefully out of it according to their different natures.

One fine pyramid group on a balcony or porch-top, for summer, would consist of chimney bell-flowers (*Campanula pyramidalis*), blue aralias, and summer cypresses in front of the aralias, white tobacco plants (*Nicotiana affinis*), crimson beet and mock maidenhair (*Thalictrum minus adiantifolium*), deep blue ostrich feather asters or blue larkspurs, and white carnations, golden feather, purple-leaved bugle, variegated arabis, and, lastly, an edging of indigo blue lobelia.

A simpler group can be built up with single dahlias, Pompon dahlias, Tom Thumb cactus dahlias, then ferns with zinnias here and there, then a belt of the bronze-leaved foam flower, then one of oxalis

rosea, and a final edge of closely-set pans of gold, white, orange, red and purple stonecrops.

Let the town-gardener note that many of the tiny plants can be cultivated in the pans sold for sowing seed in, and this is a help in carpeting among other plants.

Groups of chrysanthemums, in scarlet-crimson, yellow and cream, with pots of scarlet-and-orange montbretias, among beets, ferns, etc., edged by mossy saxifrages and *echeveria secunda glauca*, will be charming.

Pot Michaelmas daisies and other perennial asters are of great value on account of their late blooming. It will, perhaps, be a revelation to the town-dweller that so many exquisite floral displays can be succeeded with, even within a city area; but, in truth, by growing hardy plants chiefly, just preserved from frost, by washing foliage and frequent use of the syringe, by occasional waterings with a weak solution of fertilizer in rain-water or the weakest of liquid manure, by removing all spent blooms at once and never allowing dead leaves to rot on the plants, above all by giving enough water regularly but never too much, great triumphs may be recorded.

And plant groups look beautiful in so many spots—on balconies, between verandah pillars, against arch sides or pergola poles, in wall recesses of bay windows, at the sides of the porch or steps, on the summits of mounds or rockeries, against fences or trellises, by chimneys, on the leads over built-out kitchens, in conservatories, before summer-houses, etc. etc.!

## CHAPTER IX

### PREPARING FOR AUTUMN BEAUTY

Succession of Effects. Pot Plants on Steps. Retarded Geraniums. Cork-covered Parapet Boxes. Choice of Chrysanthemums. Hardy Plants in Pots for late Blooming. Meadow-saffrons. Pot Dahlias.

**T**HE clever town gardener does not expose all his floral effects to the public gaze at the beginning of summer ; he reserves certain additions, so that when heat, dust and smoke has tired out some of the flowers, taken the beauty off the house front or the back garden, he can make up for that by introducing beauties in other forms.

Let us suppose a house up half a dozen steps. Pots, all of one size, scrupulously clean and with saucers to fit, may stand on the sides of the steps, a dozen in all, and the plants in all can be similar, or match in twos. Thus the top ones could be of glossy aralias, three feet high—so usually called castor-oil plants, which is quite wrong—the next pair could be golden chrysanthemums, the lowest pair the summer cypress (*Kochia tricophylla*), which will have begun to flush red and orange. Or quite ordinary lavender Michaelmas daisies, crimson beets, or fine-grown 'Love-lies-bleeding,' and miniature annual dwarf sunflowers, would look

novel. Of course, if ivy-leaved and other geraniums have been grown on in private with a view to this late début, have had embryo buds picked off until lately, they will now make a brilliant display.

Then, at the top of the steps, there might be groups of more plants, or long-shaped boxes to lie on the stone ledges of the parapet walls. These boxes always look best when covered with virgin cork, which is so easy to nail on wood. Some persons like to paint virgin cork with silvery metallic paints; liquid aluminium paint is the newest thing. Another idea is to have white-enamelled long boxes, like window-boxes, to stand against the side walls or railings at the top of steps, and these are, of course, easily seen and avoided on dark nights.

Then there may be huge tubs, split barrel-shape, or taller, filled with chrysanthemums, in pinks, peach-mauve and gold, and edged by cat's ear (*Stachys lanata*), with a few plants of Kenilworth ivy or trailing fuchsia (*Fuchsia procumbens*) to overhang. They are sure to attract admiration.

The town-house owner who wishes to astonish his neighbours by a late show of flowers, should order chrysanthemums for blooming in October and November, then surround these by a row of a very dwarf kind of chrysanthemum to flower earlier. The florist or nurseryman will be able to provide; to recommend varieties here would merely confuse, since there are hundreds suitable, and tradesmen in different localities cultivate different favourites for sale.

A further plan for making autumn floral is to cultivate pot and tub Helen-flowers (*Heleniums*), cone-flowers (*Rudbeckias*), and even red-hot poker. The last, known scientifically as *tritoma*, or

kniphofias, have to be potted singly in November or April, however, and should be given liquid manure once a week all summer.

The Caffre flag (*Schizostylis coccinea*) is another bulb for potting in November or March. It is a glorious plant, with long, narrow leaves and spikes of blood-crimson blossoms that appear in October and November. As it is a hardy perennial the pots should be put into cold frames during winter and be stood out during summer.

The best way to keep pot plants out of doors is to sink them up to the rims in a deep bed all of cinders. This bed can be made up anywhere, on gravel, cement, tiles, etc., against a wall. The roots in the pots are thus kept cool, moist, yet not too wet, for rains drain through the cinders, and slugs and snails are kept away. It is quite a good idea to add *schizostylis* bulbs to the window-boxes in April, if care is taken not to injure the sprouting rootlets when other plants are put among them. A couple of dozen pots of Caffre flags ranged along a balcony or verandah, making a line of crimson-scarlet so late in the year, will win a town gardener great praise.

Plants of the Japanese stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile*) are beautiful pot ornaments for the glass porch or back steps of the house.

There is a great deal to be urged in favour of always sinking pot plants in the window-boxes, because a succession of effects can be so easily arranged, and when this is carried out this tall handsome *sedum*, so unlike the humbler stonecrops, with its rose-flushed, blue-grey glaucous leaves, is a very fine autumn filling. I have seen ornamental crimson flower-pot covers used, instead of window-

boxes, each holding an eight-inch pot containing what may be called a clump of Japanese stonecrop, from which rose many of the marvellous cluster-heads of rosy bloom.

Among the seeds that are capital to sow in March in a warm greenhouse, to produce pot plants that will be handsome even when frosts are due, are those of the varieties of Japanese maize (*Zea Japonicas variegata*, and quadricolour). However the seeds may be sown, the seedlings are transferred singly to two-inch pots, then simply given a shift into slightly bigger pots every time those they inhabit are overfilled by roots. The young plants are stood out during summer, after being hardened off in frames. The leaves are magnificently streaked and coloured. Another name is Indian corn.

A raised bed, on a little lawn, looks well indeed in autumn when the gardener can sink pots of *Zea* among red chrysanthemums, or dwarf dahlias, behind a thick belt of Japanese stonecrop.

If the advice in a previous chapter has been carried out, all the rockeries, semi-shady borders and beds, even under trees, may be alight—there is no more suitable word—with the bright presence of meadow-saffrons, those big crocus-shaped blossoms whose peach, rose or white petals glisten in sunshine or moonlight. The ordinary peach-mauve is very cheap, so bulbs should have been generously planted. The slopes of grass banks by the lawn should have been dotted over with them too.

Now is the time to keep every inch of the beds and borders especially tidy by use of the spud, which will chop weeds up, destroying many insect foes meanwhile, and let air into the soil. Pot

dahlias are suitable for growing in porches or on porch steps, may even be kept in halls and rooms for weeks while they bloom. Those that stand outside to adorn the sides of walks, seats, summer-house thresholds, roof gardens, etc., may very likely be able to continue their flowering long after the planted-out dahlias are blackened, for they will, of course, be given shelter, in the house if there is no conservatory, at Winter's first hint of danger.

Happily for town dwellers, autumn has a splendour all its own, when virginia creepers clothe our walls in living ruby and the hues of many flames.



## CHAPTER X

### WINDOW GARDENS AND CONSER- VATORIES

How to Ventilate. About Gas and Temperature. Balcony  
Glasshouses for Alpines. Bulb Potting. Plants for Rooms.  
Flower-tables in Sun and Shade.

A WINDOW garden may be in a miniature glasshouse, a sort of Wardian case, or merely a collection of plants on a table, or on wire stands, or in jardinières, inside the room. But it means, to the scientific gardener, in any case, a collection of plants grown without artificial heat.

Now a room that is constantly well ventilated makes quite a healthy plant-house, near its glass, but a room in which only chinks of ventilation are allowed, and the windows are fastened tight up every night, is not a happy home for vegetation of any sort.

Draughts do a lot of mischief when on a level with the plants, whereas draughts above them act but as valuable ventilation.

Gas is, of course, very harmful to plants, yet constant sponging and spraying will mitigate its evil, provided the air is purified by sufficient through ventilation, which means letting enough

wind blow through the room to entirely change the air ; during which process plants should be placed elsewhere or have light muslin thrown over them.

The temperature of rooms will be found exceedingly different, apart from the changes of temperature wrought by our English climate, and the differences are also great according to the districts and environments. A south-facing window on a Hampstead hill is *baking* hot at times ; one in a city square would be little more than *basking* hot, the sun fierceness reaching it tempered by haze ; yet the Hampstead room will contrive to be terribly cold, south though it is, on a bitter night or day of winter, whereas the room in the city square will have many more degrees of temperature to its credit. Exposed windows are good, in a way ; and bad, in a way.

The house gardener had better buy a self-recording thermometer. All the ordinary greenhouse plants—geraniums, primulas, cinerarias, fuchsias, heliotrope—need a winter temperature of  $50^{\circ}$  to keep them going, though they will not die if there is a drop to  $45$  or  $40^{\circ}$  at night occasionally. Also, plants can be safeguarded, when there is danger of frost, by covering them with muslin, wrapping newspaper round the pots to stand high around them, inverting glass shades over them, keeping a small oil lamp burning between them and the window, or having a small oil stove lit on the hearth. Of course outside window-conservatories, or fixed plant-cases on balconies or porchtops, cannot be used for delicate plants unless slightly heated at night, and occasionally by day, from November to April or even May. If the owner wishes to manage these economically and without

much trouble, he should cultivate only perennials, especially 'alpines.' There are thousands of familiar favourites, from primroses to roses and chrysanthemums, that will do well if given open-air treatment when summer heat would weaken them under glass; there are thousands of exquisite, uncommon alpines that would revel in the shelter, blossom as freely in the heart of towns as in the country, and keep up a succession of gay bloom.

The following have been grown in a little 'alpine' house in the west centre of London:—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| SAXIFRAGA WALLACEI.   | into winter. 1 ft. Must not be scorched by sun.   |
| White, blooming from April to July. 6 in. high.   | CALVARY CLOVER (Parietaria communis.) Blue. July to September. 6 in.  |
| SAXIFRAGA HYBRIDA SPLENDENS. Tall rose spikes among fine leaves. February to June.        | BARBARY RAGWORT (Othonnopsis cheirifolia). February to July. Yellow, silvery foliage. 18 in.                  |
| SAXIFRAGA STRACHEYI ALBA. White. April and May. 2 ft.                                     | RED-CENTRED ST. JOHN'S WORT, OR ROSE OF SHARON (Hypericum Moserianum). Gold-and-scarlet. Trailer. All summer. |
| SAXIFRAGA DECIPIENS RUBRA GRANDIFLORA. Bright crimson. May to July. 7 in.                 | SUN ROSES (Helianthemum vulgare). Varieties, yellow, red, white, pink, etc. All summer. 8 in.                 |
| SAXIFRAGA TRIFURCATA. White. May to July. 1 ft.   | DACTYLIS GLOMERATA ELEGANTISSIMA (Variegated grass). 2 ft.  |
| SAXIFRAGA BURSERIANA. Silver cushions of foliage, white flowers. February to April. 3 in. | PLUMBAGO LARPENTÆ. Cobalt blue. Autumn and winter. 8 in.  |
| SEMPERVIVUM ARACHNOIDEUM. The curious Cobweb house-leek.                                  | ÆTHIONEMA GRANDIFLORA. Rosy longheads of blossom. May to September. 2 ft.                                     |
| SEDUM EWERSII. Grey, shining trailer, with rose flowers all summer. 4 in.                 |   |
| PRIMULA MALACOIDES. Lilac. All summer, on   |   |

Pot shrubs to grow, if there is space, are—

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ANDREW'S BROOM (Cytisus Andreanus). <i>Gold-and-red.</i>                      | JAPANESE QUINCE (Pyrus japonica). <i>Red, rose or whitey-blush.</i>  |
| WHITE BROOM (Cytisus albus).  | ROCK ROSES (Cistuses candidissimus, florentinus, formosus, purpurens, etc.).   |
| CREAM BROOM (Cytisus præcox). <i>Cream.</i>                                   | <i>Rose, white, yellow, red-purple. Summer.</i>  |
| SWEET DAPHNE (Daphne mezereon). <i>Rosy red or white. February and March.</i> | GHENT AZALEAS. <i>Yellow, apricot, copper, etc. Quite hardy, but do not bloom unless the dead flowers of previous year have been removed to prevent seed-pods.</i> |
| TRAILING DAPHNE (Daphne cneorum). <i>Rose.</i>                                |  |
| MYRTLE (Myrtus communis). <i>Ivory white.</i>                                 |  |

Bulbs to pot for the miniature greenhouse on a verandah or outside a window, include freesias, Spanish irises, Roman and other hyacinths, ixias, sparaxis, tulips, narcissi, tigridias, tritonias, oxalises floribunda and brasiliensis, scilla sibirica, early-flowering gladioli, chionodoxas, anemone fulgens, and tuberous begonias. Bulbs should mostly be potted about their own depth deep, but the soil above their tips must not be pressed as hard as the soil against their sides, but left loose, or as it is called, friable, that they may be able to pierce easily through it. (*See chapters on Daily Routine, and Seasonable Work.*)

As a rule, pot plants for inside rooms are bought regardless of their suitability. A double petunia may look charming in a shop, but gassy air will turn it black; a cactus is quaint, but dies unless there is plenty of sunshine; primulas usually rot off at the collar if there is not sun enough, and are burnt to death if there is too much. Primula

obconicas are a fairly safe choice, and a capital investment, because they can be divided as they overcrowd one another, several pot specimens being made out of the first; but handling the roots, probably also the stems, without gloves on, will undoubtedly give a skin rash to many persons. I can vouch from experience that one can become so accustomed to the influence as to suffer no results, as it is possible to become used to mosquito and even bee stings, yet I think it best to give the warning. In one case known to me a lady wore gloves when dividing her *primula obconicas*, but happened to rub her eyelids with her fingers, and had a bad rash, or sort of eczema, upon the former in consequence.

The Fairy Primrose (*Primula malacoides*) is very dainty, and, I believe, innocuous. Single fuchsias are so graceful that it is surprising how seldom they are chosen instead of the doubles. Show pelargoniums are as easy to manage as the zonal pelargoniums we call geraniums, if they are often washed to keep away green-fly. Clivias and amaryllis are suitable if there are facilities for keeping them during winter. Yellow genistas, deutzias and spiræas can be planted out in the garden, if there is one, or sunk in their pots, in cinders, mulched by cinders and some cocoa-nut fibre in October's end, and lifted and repotted in March. Of course it is a convenient plan to hand such plants as these to a florist to be repotted.

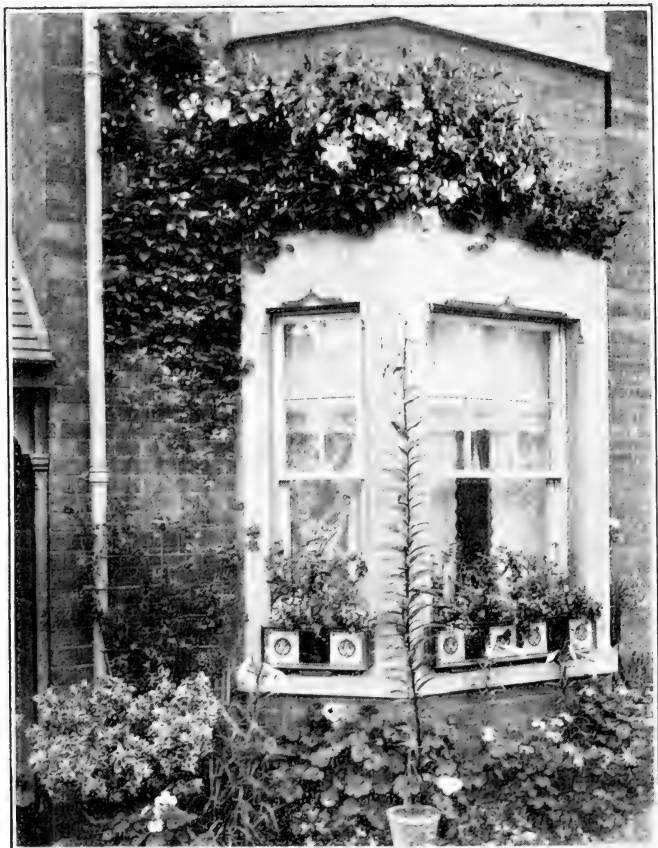
Chrysanthemums in pots must be in the air until they are fully set with buds, preferably till the buds show colour: all but the latest kinds, which should be brought in, in any state, at the end of October. Roses will bloom in town windows if they can be

kept out of doors from May to blooming time, stood out after their first blooming until the autumnal crop of buds is well forward, then kept in cold frames during winter. They really need frequent syringing, which is a difficult matter indoors, though dipping the branches and sponging bigger leaves and the stems will suffice. Marguerites only last for a time ; cinerarias, especially of the Star type (*Cineraria stellata*) will thrive in city air, indeed sootiness seems to keep off the 'fly' that is so ruinous to greenhouse specimens ; they must have warm sites, of course.

Border carnations, perpetual carnations, and annual marguerite carnations, can all be recommended. Malmaison, and other winter and earliest spring blooming kinds, often succeed enough in rooms to delight the possessors, and can be perfectly grown in little balcony greenhouses if given plenty of top air.

The flower-table in the sunny window may be a real joy ; the best kind has a three- or four-inch-deep zinc or tin tray on the top, but a few bits of wood nailed round an ordinary kitchen table, to make the top like a tray, with sides four or more inches high, and a sheet of white mottled or green American cloth or linoleum put into the tray so as to come partly up those sides, will prove quite convenient.

The following are a few plants to grow in pots ; suggestions for others must be gleaned from other pages of this book :—



*Photo*

*Vasey*

#### A TASTEFUL DISPLAY

Bed along Front: GERANIUMS, DWARF ROSES and LILIUMS in pots

At left: EUONIUMS in box, IVY GERANIUMS behind

Window Boxes: IVY GERANIUMS, DOUBLE NASTURTIUMS and LOBELIA

Overhanging Windows: PURPLE CLEMATIS

Between Windows: LILIUM HENRYI in pots





VERBENAS.

STATICES BONDUELLI.  
*Yellow, sinuata, lavender.*

SCHIZANTHUSES. *Annua'l*  
*Butterfly flowers.*

PRIMULA STELLATA. *Tall.*

PHACELIA CAMPANULARIA.  
*Gentian blue annual. 9 in.*

TOBACCO PLANTS. *White*  
*and coloured hybrids.*

MIGNONETTE.

HUMEA ELEGANS. *Brownish*  
*red. Very graceful.*

THE BLUE GUM (*Eucalyptus*  
*globulus*).

FEATHERED COCKSCOMBS  
(*Celosias*). *Gold, scarlet,*  
*etc. 2 ft.*

TASSEL FLOWER (*Cacalia*  
*coccinea*). *Hardy annual.*  
*Vermilion. 15 in.*

SPIRÆA JAPONICA. *White.*  
*2 ft.*

BLEEDING-HEART FLOWER  
(*Dicentra spectabilis*).  
*Pink. 2 ft.*

BRIDAL WREATH (*Francoa*  
*ramosa*). *White. Flower*  
*spikes. 3 ft.*

SOLOMON'S SEAL (*Poly-*  
*gonatum multiflorum*).  
*White. 3 ft.*

QUEEN OF SAXIFRAGES  
(*Saxifraga longifolia*).  
*White. 2 ft.*

MOTHER OF THOUSANDS  
(*Saxifraga sarmentosa*).  
*Coloured leaves and whitish*  
*flowers, spotted with gold*  
*and scarlet. Trailing.*

SPIRÆA PALMATA ELEGANS.  
*Pale rose. 2½ ft.*

BUGLE LILIES (*Watsonias*).  
*Tall spikes of white, ver-*  
*milion or terra-cotta salmon.*  
*Pot bulbs (called corms) in*  
*October or November, about*  
*one inch and a half apart,*  
*and one inch deep. Keep*  
*in cool room till about to*  
*flower, when place in sunny*  
*window.*

Plants on the flower-table should be arranged so that the foliage and lesser subjects hide the pots of the larger, as in making plant groups for balconies, porches, etc. The zealous gardener will never tire of experimenting to discover beautiful flowers that he may cultivate with only a window for glasshouse. What can a few failures matter, when the triumphs will create such delight?

Shady windows can have plant-tables devoted to ferns, Solomon's seal, the native primrose, dainty variegated ivies, spiræas, London pride, meadow-saffrons, calceolarias, periwinkles, and many small evergreen shrubs, with German irises, in all their

pale or richly-hued varieties, in eight- and ten-inch tubs. All the plants should be stood out in sunshine occasionally, when it is not too strong; if this is done—say once a fortnight for three days at a time, or once a week if the plants have to be housed each night—fuchsias, calceolarias, and many more favourites can be added. The colours of the window-table flowers must be carefully chosen to harmonize, or contrast well, with the window-box plants.

## CHAPTER XI

### LIFE IN TOWN GARDENS

Seats, Summer-Houses, Shelters, Rain-water Butt, Screens, Tents, Furniture, Lawns, Birds, Tortoises. Keeping out Cats.

**N**O matter how small the town garden may be, there should be a seat in it. The owner must decide where the best shade is, if he wishes to sit out in the dog-days, or where the most genial position is if he wishes to bask at other times. Personally, I advocate placing the seat in sunshine, and as sheltered a nook as is consistent with gaining such breezes as are likely to be pleasant. For the seat that is too hot can be enjoyed to the full after sundown, whereas the seat that is always in shade is not much use during nine months of the year, and the ground beneath it will be generally damp. It may be a simple bench, or an elaborate affair of iron, or rustic woodwork, an art-manufacture of Jacobean design, a classic-shaped long, broad stool such as we see in wedgwood carvings, or a railed bench of wet-resisting teak, but should be accompanied by a foot-rest to correspond in style.

There should be seats on balconies, to save the trouble of lifting chairs out from the rooms. There should be fixed benches along verandahs for the

same reason, and side benches in porches are always advisable.

It is amazing how much use can be made of a fair-sized garden shelter, against the sunniest wall of a town 'pleasure ground.' Of course, all the householder has to do is to visit the ironmonger or horticultural builder, choose his summer-house or summer shelter (which will be shed-shape), and have it sent home and fixed up. But he will do well to have it set on a foundation of some sort, such as cemented sunk bricks, asphalt, concrete, pavement, inlaid tiles, embedded small stones, or mounted on a wooden platform beneath which air passes, as many bungalows are built.

A thatched roof is not in keeping with a town mansion, yet who can be blamed for choosing this countrified feature? Heather, gorse and bracken-fern are often used instead of straw for thatching. Summer-houses had better be painted than stained and varnished, and creosoted wood is detested by climbers.

Span-roofed buildings are best set in the open, but of course it is sometimes almost necessary to place them beneath trees. Roofs should be either well domed or much slanted, and the floors should slope sharply from back to front, or moderately from middle to sides.

Rain-water is so precious that a butt should adjoin one wall of a summer-house, be fed by the guttering, and have an overflow pipe in connexion with the water-pipe from house to drains.

If nothing will grow where the seats or summer-houses stand, except ivies and virginia creeper, let those be perfectly cultivated and well trimmed. But hypericiums, the Hard Fern, the Broad Buckler

Fern, the big periwinkle, vinca major, the purple German iris, foxgloves and Solomon's seal will live under exceedingly adverse circumstances, provided the ground is prepared for them, and kept hoed over at all seasons of the year. It is difficult to grow violets and lilies-of-the-valley in real town gardens; however, the attempt should be made. The free use of very old horse-manure does wonders.

A tent is not a bad ornament in a walled-round, arid bit of garden, but one of green canvas is infinitely preferable to a white one that will not stay white. Of course, a tent can be fixed up in a sunny paved yard. The 'lawn' is the worst possible spot, because the grass will suffer and the ground be mostly damp.

Tables and chairs, in tents or shelters, will encourage people to lead an open-air life. Facilities for resting, working, or even sleeping should be provided wherever the entourage is suitable, on roof-tops, balconies, or 'leads' above built-out kitchens, garages or billiard-rooms.

Screens of trellis woodwork may be set up to render seat sites private, or non-draughty, the lower halves should have boards or rot-proof felt nailed against them.

It is folly to try to make a lawn in a tree-shaded garden, or where walls or buildings shut out most of the air, for turf will not thrive without light and some sunshine, and slimy damp grass is abominable to walk over.

Some years ago there was quite a craze for keeping tortoises in back gardens. They are not intelligent pets, and though they eat noxious creatures that feed on vegetation, they themselves feed upon tender

little seedlings and crush down tufts of delicate plants.

Feeding the sparrows is a hobby that can be recommended, and water should be provided as well as food. In suburbs there will be blackbirds, thrushes, starlings, and even tits.

To deter all the cats of the vicinity from enjoying the garden, either large-meshed wire-netting or old fish-netting should be put up loosely three-quarters of a yard or more high round all the walls. The poles to which the netting is fixed ought to have sharpened tops. So long as the netting is not taut, but shakes at the least touch, few, if any, cats will climb over it.

## CHAPTER XII

### DAILY ROUTINE AND SEASONABLE WORK

#### GENERAL WORK FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

**D**ISBUD dahlias slightly to secure fine blooms. See to the ties of dahlias, or heavy storm rains may bend them double.

Go over rose-trees to cut away all the shoots that have flowered, to within a quarter-inch of the branches from which they start. Fresh shoots will soon appear, and when these are a few inches long the quarter-inch bit of old stem should be pared off by a very sharp knife.

Remove altogether all overcrowding weakly branches of roses, right up to the end of October; the trees will be much stronger to face the winter.

Cut down flower spikes of hollyhocks, delphiniums and snapdragons directly they fade.

Mulch the beds of pinks, violets and lilies-of-the-valley with old stable manure chopped short. Scatter some slaked lime (builders' lime) on the surface soil first, and prick over, between the plants, with a hand-fork.

Mow grass twice a week, roll when lawns have partly dried after heavy storms.

Harvest seeds. Gather them on dry days, place in saucers in a warm window, not actually in sunshine, for two days, then put into envelopes and keep in dry drawers.

Apply weed-killer to paths and crevices of bricked or paved yards.

Make up borders that are to have trees, shrubs, roses or perennials planted in them in November. Fork them over first, add manure if necessary, dress with fumigants if desired (*see* Chapter III). Weed garden ground, and soil in boxes, urns, rockeries, tubs, pots, etc., before the weeds can seed.

When green moss has grown on surface soil in pots, etc., scrape it off, and add some fresh compost, then water with a solution of one teaspoonful of builders' lime to the pint.

If the presence of worms in pots, etc., is suggested, water the plants once with a solution of half a teaspoonful of mustard in a pint of water. When possible lay the pots on their sides, then the worms will struggle out, some at the base, some at the top.

Remove all the long weakly growths on Rambler roses, leaving the strong new shoots from the base room in which to develop.

As pot lilies go out of bloom stand them out of doors in semi-shade and gradually withhold water. The same treatment, except that some water is needed, is correct for azaleas, heaths, brooms, deutzias, spiræas, genistas and pot roses.

Keep pansies, violas, and other bedding plants from seeding. If rose leaves are mildewed cut off the most disfigured ones, dust flowers of sulphur on all the others, also the stems, when they are



moist ; in three days' time wash and syringe off the sulphur with a solution of one teaspoonful of Sanitas fluid in a gallon of water.

An old recipe for preventing mildew from spreading is to syringe the trees every evening with water in which elder leaves, young shoots especially, have been well bruised by a stick and left to soak twelve hours. It is well to water mildewed rose-trees thoroughly with plain rain- or river-water, giving a couple of bucketfuls to each large bush, standard or climber, and one bucketful to each small bush ; but this should not be done after the beginning of October unless the season is hot exceptionally late.

Instead of standing out show pelargoniums, lay them on their sides along a gravel or tiled walk in sunshine. Lift and give a little water in a week. Repot them into similar-sized, or even into smaller pots of ordinary compost, after cutting them back. If they can be kept in a frame, so much the better ; if not, they can remain out until the end of October.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR AUGUST

Layer carnations. This is done by bending down well-developed side shoots and pegging them into equal parts of compost and silver sand, after first cutting a little slit in the stem just where it is pegged down. The portion of shoot above ground may be from four to seven inches. This portion should be sprinkled with water once or twice daily. Shoots can be layered into pans or pots, if more convenient than the garden ground ; it is sometimes necessary to fasten a small pot to sticks, some distance up the plant, to secure a layer from a shoot that cannot

be bent down sufficiently. In three weeks' time the layers should show signs of growing.

Divide garden tufts, or pot clumps, of primroses, polyanthuses, arabises, etc. : all small hardy plants that are too thick, in fact.

Give weak manure-water, and weak soot-water, to geraniums, marguerites, fuchsias, hydrangeas, petunias, etc. etc., that are flowering lavishly.

Give very weak soot-water once to ferns. Scatter some fertilizer on the soil of aspidistras, palms, aralias, and other foliage plants in pots, when that soil is not perfectly dry, and water in lightly at once, after which leave them till quite dry before watering again.

Water palms and ferns freely, also aspidistras.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR SEPTEMBER

Wash the wood and shoots of azaleas, oleanders, hydrangeas, deutzias, and other plants of fairly woody stems, with a very weak solution of Gishurst Compound, according to instructions supplied with it. Syringe several times during the following week.

Sponge the leaves (grass) and stems of carnations with a solution of one saltspoonful of paraffin in a quart of tepid water. This will prove a remedy for insect pests.

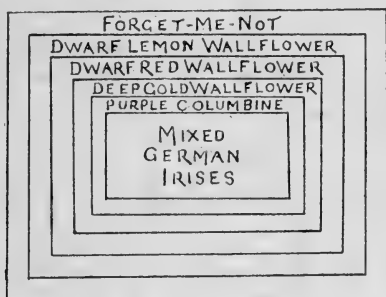
Trim box edgings and all evergreen shrubs except hollies and privets, which are best done in April. Shorten wild shoots of the white spring flowering clematises.

Remove seed-pods, if any have been allowed to form, from azaleas and rhododendrons. Clematises can be layered like carnations, so may Rambler roses.

This is a good month for planting or potting

the Madonna lily. One bulb may be put in each six-inch pot, or three in a ten-inch. The bulbs, in pots, should be covered by only half an inch of soil, though those planted in beds, borders, or deep boxes and ornamental stone vases, should be four inches below the soil. The right compost for lilies, and suggestions what lilies to grow, will be found dealt with in Chapter XIII.

This is the best month for cleaning conservatories,



A SIMPLE RIBBON BED FOR SPRING.

greenhouses, and frames, because in the first weeks the temperature is usually safe for standing all their occupants outside for a few days.

Repainting woodwork annually is a great preventive of disease and insect pests. All woodwork not to be painted should be scrubbed with soft-soap and water, all pots that are left in should be scraped clean. Indeed, every pot had better be quickly dipped in a bucket of soft-soap solution, then washed and rubbed dry just before the plants are put back in their homes, and all dying or in-

jured leaves should be picked off. August is the gardener's favourite month for greenhouse cleaning, but unless the plants can be stood in semi-shade the heat sometimes proves devastating, so September is safer.

Give chemical foods, soot-water, and weak liquid manure, alternately, twice or thrice a week to pot chrysanthemums for late blooming. Palms must be watered liberally this month. Plant out seedling wallflowers, sweet rocket, honesty, and Brompton stocks where they are to bloom ; or the wallflowers can be put in rows anywhere and used to fill emptied beds in late October or November. A very slight dusting over with guano will greatly assist a poor grass plot.

Remove the shading or curtains from glass-houses, and thin out any climbers that make the places dark.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR OCTOBER

Make up all dells and holes in the lawn with good compost, wet it, scatter lawn grass seed, press it in by a wooden box-lid or back of a trowel, strew some roadside or path grit on, and a sprinkling of carbolic powder. Holes made by grubbing out weeds may be similarly treated.

Keep pot fuchsias and geraniums nearly dry at the roots for a few weeks, standing them in full air, but sprinkle them daily. Then fill up the pots with compost, after pricking over the soil, cut the shoots back well, thin out overcrowded growth, and return to windows or glasshouses any that are expected to give winter or spring blossom. The others can be kept nearly dry out of doors until

November begins, then be taken from their pots and squeezed together by their roots in boxes of not much dry soil, to be merely just kept alive, in airy attics or sheds or cold frames, or on greenhouse floors, until spring.

If ants have come into any buildings, strew powdered alum on all the floorings, which will drive them away.

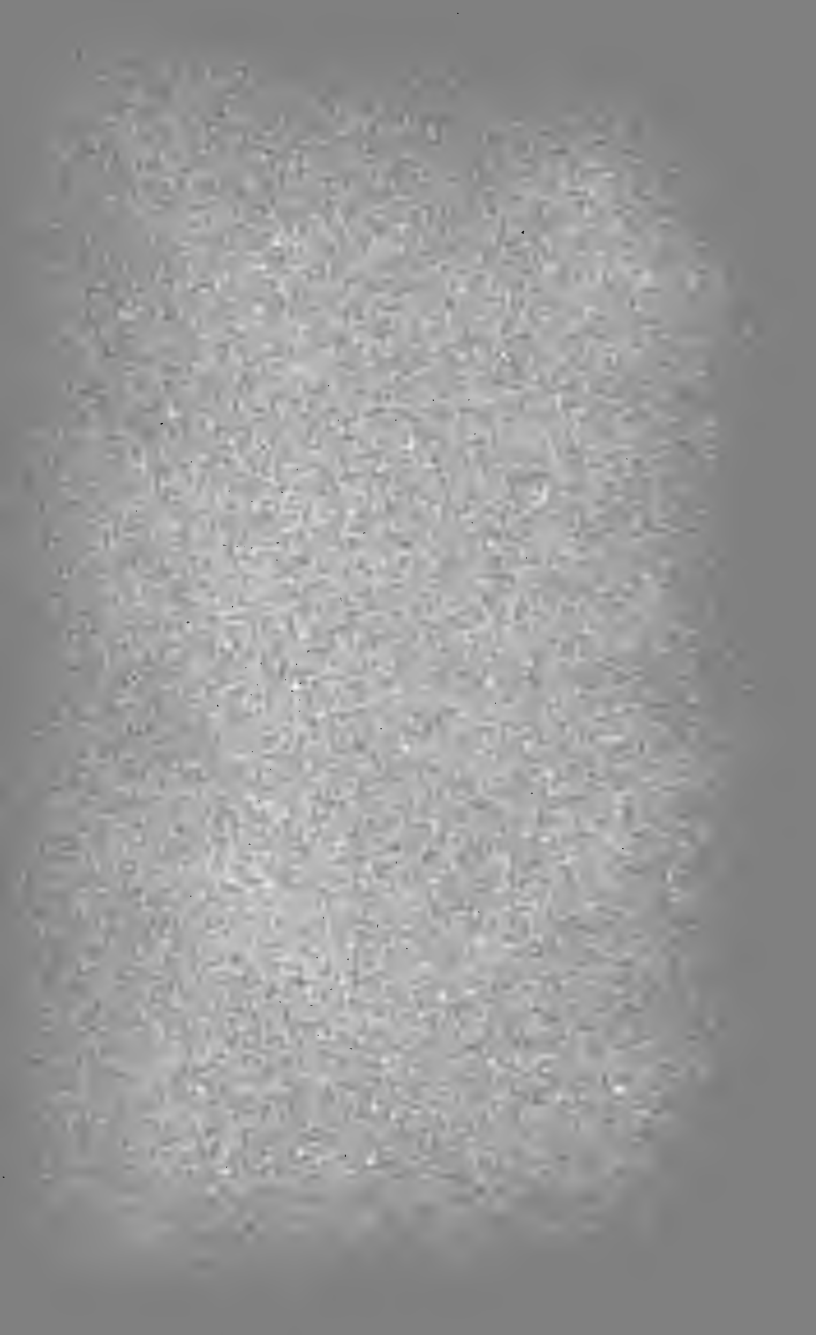
If field mice—or garden mice—are troublesome, bait traps with sunflower seeds: cheese is no use.

Clip spent edgings of arabises quite short, keep them watered, if the weather does not, and they will become thick and neat again.

Divide and replant overcrowded London pride. Plant roses, shrubs, etc. (*See Chapter XV.*)

Clear out any window-boxes that are no longer attractive, and sink pot plants in them, of such things as chrysanthemums, dwarf late Michaelmas daisies, Japanese and other stonecrops, dwarf miniature ivies, variegated shrubs and young aralias.

*Watch the weather.* Early November is the right time usually, in towns, for putting bedding plants, etc., away, but a cold October may oblige the gardener to antedate the safeguarding work.



## Part III

### WORK IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, AND JANUARY

#### CHAPTER XIII

#### BULB POTTING, ETC.

List of Bulbs to Plant or Pot, with Instructions for Culture.  
Hyacinths in Glasses. Bulbs to Cultivate in Peat Fibre  
Mixture.

**F**REESIA potting is described in a previous chapter. It can be continued after July and August; indeed, if done at fortnightly intervals until December a succession of blossoming ornaments will be gained.

There are so many excellent ways of using bulbs that all cannot be mentioned, but the town gardener may choose among the following suggestions.

Spring Snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*). Little white flowers, green-tipped. Plant three inches apart and two inches deep in rockery nooks, in August, September or October.

Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum æstivum*). A fine plant, with white bell-shaped flowers in May.

Eighteen inches. Plant four inches deep and four inches apart in good borders in August, September, October or November.

Roman Hyacinths. White. Pot bulbs, three in a five-inch pot of ordinary compost, one inch deep. Place pots in a cold frame, or on a cold greenhouse floor, or in boxes in a room. Cover them in with ashes until growth can just be seen breaking through. Then remove to window or greenhouse. No water is required till growth appears. Plant from August to December.

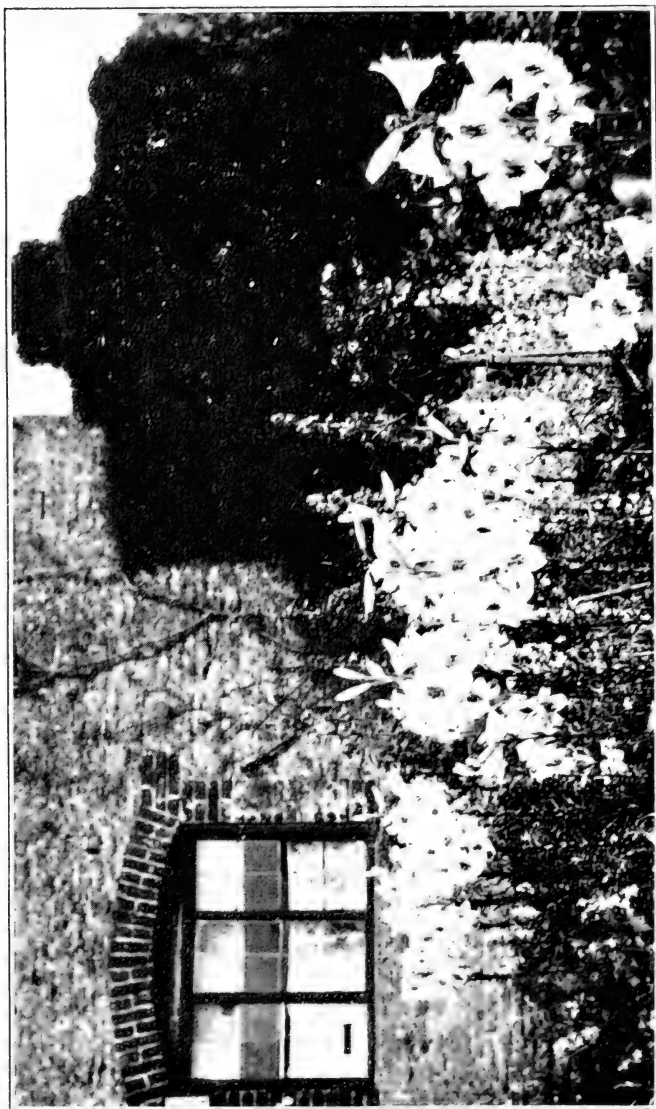
Italian Hyacinths. Blue and pink. Similar to Roman hyacinths, but coloured. Treat identically. The bulbs of these two classes of hyacinth should be thrown away after the flowers are over.

Hyacinths. Double and single hyacinths of all colours. Plant out of doors in November, three inches deep, eight inches apart. Lift bulbs and dry them off to store in June. Pot in November and December one bulb, with its tip just under the compost, in a six-inch pot, or three in a nine-inch. Cover as with Roman Hyacinths.

Tulip. Ordinary early, mid-early and late kinds, double or single, all colours. Plant out of doors in November, three or four inches deep, six or eight inches apart. Bulbs may be lifted when they have flowered and planted immediately in waste ground to complete their growth, or else must be left where they are till the foliage has all died down; then they should be lifted, dried off and stored. Pot these tulips, the earliest first, from September to December, four bulbs in a six-inch pot, tips just covered. Cover with cinders, as with Roman Hyacinths.

Hardy Tulips. The Darwin, Parrot, Cottage and





Lisa

LILIES AND NEW TREES

Phoe



other perennial tulips are all to be left in the ground, and make handsome colour groups in borders. Sharp cinders should be thrown over the soil above them each November in the worst town gardens.

Spanish Irises. Plant bulbs three inches deep, six inches apart, in sunny borders, from September to December. Cover the soil with ashes and old coco-nut fibre refuse. Leave in the ground; they may thrive, and if they should fail bulbs are very cheap to replace them. Pot Spanish irises in October or November, five bulbs in a six-inch pot, or seven in an eight-inch, two inches deep. Treat like Freesias, that is to say, place the pots in frames or on cold greenhouse floor or attic shelf, scarcely ever giving water until growth appears. Then move into light, but do not attempt to force them in warm greenhouse until flower spikes are just beginning to be discernible as thickened shoots between the sword leaves.

Crown Imperials (*Fritillaria imperialis*). Plant, from September to December, one bulb in a six- or eight-inch pot of a compost of equal parts of loam, peat, leaf-mould, old manure chopped fine, and coarse sand, covering with about two inches of soil and laying the bulb slightly on its side to prevent water from lodging in its heart. The pots should be kept uncovered, in a cool place, until the growth is quite vigorous, and scarcely any water should be given in the early stages. Plant six inches apart in tubs, eight inches out of doors, and four inches deep.

*Gladiolus colvillei*, the Bride. Plant, from October to December, in warm border, box-bed, window-boxes, rockeries or tubs, four inches deep, six inches apart. Mulch ground with very old

manure and coarse sand mixed. Pot, October to March, one inch deep, five corms in a six-inch pot. Keep uncovered in cold frame or plunged to the rim in a cinder bed against a south wall, covering with dry litter during frosts. Remove to window or greenhouse when growth is several inches high.

Madonna Lily (*Lilium candidum*). Place, in September or October, one bulb rather deep in a six- or eight-inch pot, barely covering it, leaving a couple of inches of space for adding more soil later, when the roots show on the surface. Use a compost of equal parts of peat, loam and sand. Place pots in a bed of cinders, under cover if possible; make a mulch of six inches of coco-nut fibre refuse over all. Remove to frames, window or greenhouse, directly growth can be discovered.

Golden Lily of Japan (*Lilium auratum*). Pot, September to March, placing one bulb in a six-inch pot, or three in a ten- or twelve-inch tub. Use a compost of equal parts of peat, loam, leaf-mould, old manure and sand. Cover with one inch of compost, placing the bulb low down in pot. Keep pots under cover. Mulch over with two inches of coco-nut fibre refuse until growth begins, when remove them to cool greenhouse or room window. Water lightly when growth starts, vigorously when plants are fully grown. Fill up pots gradually with compost. Give weak liquid manure occasionally to full-grown plants. Stand out in sunshine after flowering is done. Dry off, from October to March, after gradually ceasing to water.

Japanese Spotted Lily (*Lilium speciosum*). White, crimson or rose. Treat as *Lilium auratum*.

*Lilium Harrisii*. White. Treat as *Lilium auratum*, but do not absolutely dry off after flowering.

Florists and seedsmen will supply all these lily bulbs ready for planting, if requested, but kept bulbs, or any not prepared specially, should have any spoilt scales rubbed off, and be half sunk in moistened coco-nut fibre refuse for a week before they are potted. This will cause them to swell.

Lebanon Squill (*Puschkina libanotica compacta*). Charming little uncommon flower, white, striped with blue. Pot, October to March, half an inch deep, an inch apart. Keep uncovered in cool place until leaves have grown.

Daffodils. The beautiful large or small Trumpet Daffodils can be safely planted, from September to January, out of doors in London or other towns, in ordinarily well-drained borders, with old manure added nine inches below the surface, and a very little more manure, broken fine, can be mixed with the soil above. Plant six to ten inches apart, and two to three inches deep, according to the size of the bulbs.

*Polyanthus Narcissi*. Treat as Daffodils.

*Stella Narcissi*. Treat as Daffodils.

Single Poet's *Narcissus* (or Pheasant's Eye). Treat as Daffodils.

All the above may be potted, three bulbs in a six-inch pot, from September to January, in a compost of equal parts of loam, leaf-mould, sand, and a half part of thoroughly old manure, leaving points of bulbs just uncovered. Sink in cinder bed until growth begins. Do not water till then. Weak liquid manure is of great value when buds are forming.

Gold and White Jonquils can be similarly grown, rather closer together.

The double daffodils and double white narcissi

should be added to borders or outdoor beds, tubs, urns, etc., but not potted for any indoor purposes.

Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*). Pot roots in ordinary soil, in November, in six-inch pots, or larger clumps of roots in tubs. Keep out of doors, or in cool places, covered by coco-nut fibre refuse until growth begins.

Turban Ranunculuses. Beautiful, brilliant, many-hued flowers for rich beds, with sand added, or for window-boxes, urns, tubs, etc. Plant the tubers firmly, claw side downwards, two inches deep and three inches apart, in October or November. Mulch over with leaf-mould. Mulch with old manure in March. Can be planted in February in cold gardens. Lift the tubers in July or August, dry them in sunshine, and store.

Caffre Flag (*Schizostylis coccinea*). Plant from September to March in sunny borders or window-boxes, two or three inches deep; or pot three bulbs in a six-inch pot, two inches deep, in March. Keep in frames till June; stand pots out till October, then take into greenhouse or window.

Siberian Squill (*Scilla sibirica*). Blue or white. Plant bulbs two inches deep, two inches apart, in October, November and December. Pot bulbs one inch apart. Keep under cinder covering, in cool place, till growth begins, then move to greenhouse or sunny window.

Bluebells (*Scilla nutans*). Blue or white. Plant bulbs, in sun or shade, in October and November.

Spanish Hyacinths (*Scilla hispanica*). White, lilac, blue or pink 'bluebells.' Treat as *Scilla nutans*.

Harlequin Flower (*Sparaxis*). Somewhat like *ixis*; many colours. Pot, in November, seven bulbs

in six-inch pot. Cover with fine ashes or coco-nut fibre refuse. Keep in frost-proof room till growth appears, when lift pots out and keep in sunny window or greenhouse. Water moderately then. Dry bulbs off after flowering, but do not take them from their pots. Begin to water slightly next early spring, top-dress, and flower bulbs again in the same pots.

{Tiger Flower (*Tigridia pavonia*). Gorgeous in colour and very beautiful. Pot in March or April, three bulbs in a six-inch pot, one inch deep. Use a compost of two parts loam and one part each of peat and coarse sand. Cover with cinders in frame or glass-covered box in attic; do not water until growth begin, when give light and air. Move to greenhouse or warm window and water freely. Give liquid manure when flowers begin to form. Dry off gradually after bloom is over. Keep pots exposed to sunshine for some weeks, then turn out bulbs and store by hanging them up in a dry room.

Bugle Lily (*Watsonia ardeni*). White. Pot, in October or November, placing three or four corms in a six-inch pot. Keep in frame, giving just enough water to prevent the soil becoming dust dry, till flower spikes show, when grow on in greenhouse or window, watering normally. Dry off in the pots, and water once, then repot in following October.

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*). The golden star flowers are very pretty in earliest spring. Plant bulbs an inch deep and an inch apart, in semi-shade. Can be grown in pots, like *Scilla sibirica*.

Scarlet Wind Flower (*Anemone fulgens*). Plant out of doors, in beds, boxes, etc., two inches deep, six inches apart, from October to December.

**Crocuses.** Plant in October and November, three inches deep in good, fairly light soil, two inches in heavy soil. Lift and divide every fourth year. Pot one inch deep, one or two inches apart. Cover with cinder ashes; keep in cool place till growth begins. Bulbs that have flowered in pots are useless for further pot-culture, but may be planted outside.

**Snowdrops.** Plant in October, November or December, four inches deep, two or three inches apart. Pot as Crocuses.

**Lily-of-the-Valley.** Plant the 'crowns' in November or December, in very rich beds in semi-shade, two inches deep, eight inches apart.

**Montbretias.** Plant, from October to March, three inches deep, four inches apart, in rich soil. Mulch over with leaf-mould the first winter. Pot in November, placing five bulbs in each five- or six-inch pot, three inches deep. Keep in frame or room, covered by cinders or coco-nut fibre refuse until growth begins. The clumps in the pots can be turned into the garden ground to finish growth, directly the flowers are over, and portions of them may be potted up again.

**Star of Bethlehem** (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*). Plant in November, three inches deep, three inches apart. Pot, October to December, five or seven bulbs in six-inch pot. Keep coco-nut fibre covered till growth appears. Turn flowered bulbs into the border.

**Oxalis floribunda.** Pink. Shamrock-leaved. Pot in October, placing bulbs an inch deep and an inch apart. Keep in greenhouse or sunny window.

**Hyacinths in Glasses.** Nearly fill a hyacinth glass with water, rain-water if possible, and put two nuggets of pure wood charcoal in it. Lay a small



round of fish-netting over, and place a bulb on this, so as its base just touches the water. The netting is to support the bulb upright, but can be dispensed with if preferred. Put the glass on a cupboard shelf in the dark, but where a chink can be left free for air. Fill up with water as required. Admit to light gradually when the growth is a couple of inches high. Then remove to window or greenhouse sunshine.

Many bulbous plants can be grown very successfully in bowls or vases with or without holes for drainage, provided a specially prepared material is used, which is sold for the purpose, and consists of peat fibre, crushed shell, and charcoal. All large firms of seedsmen supply this. The bulbs are simply laid upon the material, slightly pressed in, and it has to be kept just moist. The distances at which bulbs should be set can be guessed by noting the distances advised for bulbs in pots.

Suitable bulbs include daffodils, early tulips, single jonquils, Roman hyacinths, early single Italian hyacinths, single Poet's narcissus, polyanthus narcissi, *scilla sibirica*; also the 'Glory of the Snow' (*Chionodoxa Luciliæ*), royal blue, which may be treated like *scilla sibirica*.

There are also the meadow-saffrons (*Colchicums*), several autumn and winter flowering species of small crocuses which bloom long before the equally suitable spring crocuses, single snowdrops, and the exquisite little azure blue and lavender iris *stylosa*, which will bloom any time from November to April indoors. Place bulbs of this two inches apart in September.

## CHAPTER XIV

### BEDDING OUT FOR SPRING

The Need for Hoeing. Why Plants die in Winter. Wallflowers. A Representative Filling for a Box Bed. Shrubs, Pinks, Pansies, etc. Erect Ivies for Window-Boxes. Spring Planting.

THE subject of filling beds, boxes, tubs, urns, etc., so that they look well all winter and contain plants or bulbs that will blossom in spring, is not a popular one, as a rule, with the town gardener, who generally has the pessimistic idea that everything is bound to die. Great quantities of plants do die between October and April, but this is often because no gardening is done meanwhile. It is absolutely essential to keep ground hoed over, and soil in receptacles pricked over, that there may be ventilation in the earth that is nourishing plants. Unless the hoe or, preferably, the spud, is used at least once a fortnight, plants cannot be expected to live.

Of course there may be long spells of hard frost, when the ground is too hard to penetrate, but these are rare, and directly frost breaks the surface soil should be loosened. There is no occasion to hoe deeply, indeed it would be sure to injure roots and

bulbs; pricking over to a depth of an inch or two, according to what is in the ground, is best.

By the by, wallflowers must not be loosened in the soil, or they will die off; so, if the hoeing has been careless these plants should be trodden round and made very firm.

The hoeing can be done lightly through any winter mulch there may be of old manure or coco-nut fibre refuse, for the soil will not be turned.

Florists will provide suitable dwarf evergreen shrubs for beds; these can safely be turned out of their pots in October, but many gardeners prefer to sink them in the pots, covering every vestige of the latter by soil.

A bed, or box, six feet square will take one shrub in the centre, a smaller shrub at each corner, and there will be room for a ring of dwarf wallflowers, then one of London pride, then variegated arabis tufts at six-inch intervals, with three early scarlet dwarf tulips in each interval, and a final edging of mossy saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*). The result will be a very pretty 'evergreen' foliage show all winter.

By a little reflection the gardener will be able to invent other combinations, bearing in mind the great merits of 'perpetual foliage' subjects, large and small, from shrubs down to common pinks.

'I can't grow pinks in my garden,' I fancy I hear from a critic. Well, there is absolutely no reason, except neglect, starvation, or injury by animals, why pinks should not flourish in even city gardens, for they do not mind soot or smoky atmosphere. The beautiful new *Allwoodii* pinks, perpetual blooming, are just as suitable, though more costly.

Pansies should always be tried. If mulched round

well they will probably live and will yield large blooms in spring ; whereas plants bought then, with giant blossoms developing, soon deteriorate.

Forget-me-nots are very 'chancy.' They succeed in some of the worst town gardens and disappear out of many better ones. Double red and white daisies (*Bellis perennis*) are fairly safe.

More use should be made of German irises, whose grey sword leaves are so elegant. They ought to be represented by robust single specimens set at nine-inch distances, say with mossy saxifrage or variegated arabis all between ; instead of which we mostly see them in overcrowded masses, unable to flower properly.

Suburban beds, borders and urns may well be edged by common thrift, for its pretty green effect, but London pride is satisfactory anywhere. Crocus edgings are always charming, but crocuses want to be let alone for three or four years, not moved about.

I have seen window-boxes, with brilliant orange tiled fronts, in the heart of the city, looking beautiful all winter through, being planted only with some gold-variegated euonymus shrubs and the tiny-leaved, deep green, erect-growing ivy (*Hedera helix conglomerata*). *Hedera helix Cavendishi variegata* is another miniature kind, only cream variegated, that should thrive.

Directly March comes in beds can be made fair for spring, of course, by the introduction of wall-flowers, forget-me-nots, lungworts, violas, double daisies, polyanthuses, plain and coloured primroses, pansies, and many other attractive things that are described in other chapters.

It is a good plan to plant forget-me-nots, especially

myosotis dissitiflora, close against crocuses that are going out of flower soon ; then masses of pale blue floescence will hide the decaying crocus foliage that must be allowed to die naturally, not cut off.

Double and single pæonies should be planted permanently as a help in the spring beds, because their red shoots of foliage are as beautiful as blossoms directly they commence growing. Some lime should be strewn round them each March to keep slugs away.

## CHAPTER XV

### ROSES, TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.

How to Plant Deciduous Trees. Evergreen Trees. Clematises Again. Roses for Town Gardens. Why Roses fail. The Hardest Roses. Rose varieties for the Suburbs. Shrubs for Suburban Gardens.

**W**E have already considered how to plant trees, with roots spread out on all sides when possible, with fine soil pressed among the roots, adequately staked and trodden firm. These rules apply to roses, shrubs, and large plants, as well as to limes, oaks, beeches, etc.

It is not much use to try to get flowering trees, such as lilacs, laburnums, and hawthorns, to grow in the core of a city, but of course they will flourish so in such cathedral and inland health-resort towns as Worcester, Bath, etc. etc., and in the suburbs of London and Midland towns they will be almost certain to thrive.

Generally speaking, deciduous trees are planted from October to April, and evergreens in September or April.

The plane-tree is the safest to use to make a screen before overlooking windows, though Lombardy poplars, chestnuts and limes are often satisfactory.

The best plan is to consult a local nurseryman when tall trees are required, that advice may be had as to the species likely to do well in the particular neighbourhood.

For ornament, in a garden plot, a Monkey Puzzler, Tulip Tree, Catalpa, or Robinia will assuredly please.

The 'tree of heaven' (*Ailanthus glandulosa*) has lovely foliage, Japanese maples show vivid hues in their wonderful leaves, the Uhlan magnolia bursts into splendid flower before winter is really past, the white pyramidal almond is scarcely known, the loveliness of the fern-leaved beech requires to be seen to be believed, and *cratægus altaica* is a hawthorn with big white blooms, that are followed by fruits as big as rose-heps.

But, I repeat, nurserymen should be asked to advise. I have seen all the above trees doing excellently within a couple of miles of Baker Street Station, and delighted in discovering magnificent house draperies of white clematis *montana* in earliest summer, purple clematis *Jackmanii* in late summer, and the cultivated 'traveller's joy' (*Clematis vitalba*), giving its masses of fluffy seed-vessels in late autumn as lavishly as if in a Devonshire lane.

Roses can be grown in open gardens, away from drip of trees, even where walls are high, for pruning partly discounts the 'drawing-up' influence of those walls. No doubt roses could be successful in dozens of town gardens where they have been tried and called failures, if their stems and leaves were washed once a week, except in the very extreme of wintry weather. It is the soot and chemical deposit that kills or turns trees sick.

Another usual death-blow to a rose is to leave it for weeks together in unhoed ground. This truth has been told so often that I despair of impressing it upon the careless gardener; but if the man who really loves his garden, and the woman who particularly loves roses, will only read, believe, and practise the art of hoeing faithfully, I am happy to know that beautiful baskets of fine rose-blooms and a comforting outdoor display will result.

The right rose-trees must be obtained. While hosts of varieties will thrive in suburbs, even in fairly airy places between the suburbs and the core of great cities, as may be seen in parks, only the hardiest will look healthy and bear well in shut-in plots.

The following are a good representative dozen:—

CAROLINE TESTOUT. <i>Pink.</i>	<i>press, according to local</i>
<i>Hybrid Tea.</i>	<i>vendor's fancy).</i>
J. B. CLARK. <i>Velvety scarlet-</i>	MADAME ABEL CHATENAY.
<i>crimson. Hybrid Tea.</i>	<i>Salmon pink. Hybrid Tea.</i>
MRS. JOHN LAING. <i>Pink.</i>	MADAME RAVARY. <i>Orange-</i>
<i>Hybrid Perpetual.</i>	<i>yellow. Hybrid Tea.</i>
GLOIRE DE DIJON. <i>Yellow-</i>	LA TOSCA. <i>Salmon flesh.</i>
<i>buff. Tea.</i>	<i>Hybrid Tea.</i>
HUGH DICKSON. <i>Vivid</i>	ULRICH BRUNNER. <i>Cherry.</i>
<i>crimson. Hybrid Perpe-</i>	<i>Hybrid Perpetual.</i>
<i>tual.</i>	BARONESS ROTHSCHILD.
FRAU KARL DRUSCHKI.	<i>Blush-rose. Hybrid Per-</i>
<i>White. Hybrid Perpetual</i>	<i>petual.</i>
<i>(Now foolishly renamed as</i>	JOHN HOPPER. <i>Deep rose.</i>
<i>Snow Queen or White Em-</i>	<i>Hybrid Perpetual.</i>

There are also suitable roses in other classes, such as—

ROSA RUGOSA 'RUBRA.'	ROSA RUGOSA ALBA.
<i>Magenta-rose, single,</i>	<i>Single. White.</i>
<i>followed by large fruits.</i>	JESSIE. <i>Cherry-crimson.</i>
<i>Forms great bushes.</i>	<i>Miniature polyantha.</i>



MA PAQUERETTE. *White.*  
*Miniature polyantha.*

MRS. CUTBUSH. *Deep pink.*  
*Miniature polyantha.*

COMMON PINK CHINA, OR  
MONTHLY ROSE.

COMMON CABBAGE ROSE.  
*Pink.*

MAIDEN'S BLUSH.  
CRIMSON DAMASK.

PIMPINELLIFOLIA. *Blush*  
*white. Single, with very*  
*thorny stems. Can be*  
*kept cut as a low hedge ;*  
*known also as the Burnet,*  
*or Single Scots Rose.*

For climbing roses, Chapter XX should be consulted.

Other rose varieties likely to succeed in the suburbs include :—

SOUVENIR DE PIERRE  
NOTTING. *Apricot - gold.*  
*Tea.*

INDEPENDENCE DAY.  
*Flame-and-apricot. Hybrid*  
*Tea.*

KING GEORGE V. *Blackish*  
*carmine. Hybrid Tea.*

HENRIETTA. *Orange-*  
*crimson, fading to salmon.*  
*Hybrid Tea.*

CHRISTINE. *Golden*  
*yellow. Hybrid Tea.*

CAPTAIN HAYWARD. *Scarlet-*  
*crimson. Hybrid Perpetual.*  
*Needs rich ground.*

DUKE OF EDINBURGH. *Like*  
*scarlet velvet, but must be*  
*very little pruned, only*  
*tipped, and thinned out as*  
*to branches. Hybrid Per-*  
*petual.*

HER MAJESTY. *Enormous*  
*rose pink. Hybrid Per-*  
*petual.*

HIS MAJESTY. *Large, dark*  
*crimson. Very fragrant.*  
*Hybrid Tea.*

AMY ROBSART. *Hybrid*  
*sweet briar ; large deep*  
*rose flowers.*

Shrubs for suburban gardens are plentiful, but this is a list of some of the best :—

BÉRBERIS STENOPHYLLA.  
*Gold.*

BÉRBERIS DARWINII.  
*Orange.*

BUDDLEIA VEITCHIANA.  
*Deep heliotrope-purple.*

SIBERIAN PEA (Caragana  
arborescens). *Yellow.*

BLADDER SENNA (Colutea  
arborescens). *Yellow*  
*flowers, and fine red-brown*  
*seed-vessels.*

GOLDEN PRIVET (Ligustrum  
aureum).

COTONEASTER FRANCHETTA.  
*Orange berries.*

- COTONEASTER ACUTUM. *Autumn tinted.*
- ATRIPLEX HALIMUS. *Purple.*
- BACCHUS TREE (Azara Baccharis patagonica). *Evergreen.*
- DAPHNE MEZEREON. *Rose.*
- DEUTZIA GRACILIS. *White.*
- EUONYMUS BUXIFOLIUS. *Evergreen. Dwarf.*
- EUONYMUS JAPONICUS RADICANS. *Evergreen. Quick growing.*
- EUONYMUS JAPONICUS ARGENTEA VARIEGATA. *Variegated silver.*
- EUONYMUS JAPONICUS AUREA VARIEGATA. *Variegated gold.*
- MOCK ORANGE, called SYRINGA (Philadelphus coronarius). *White.*
- MOCK ORANGE, called SYRINGA (Philadelphus lemoinei avalanche).
- JAPANESE CHERRY (Prunus japonica). *White, also rose.*
- HARDY RHODODENDRONS. *All colours. Must not encounter lime in the soil. And will not bloom unless the previous year's flowers were picked off as soon as faded.*
- AMERICAN CURRANT (Ribes sanguineum). *Rose.*
- SPIRÆA AITCHISONI. *White.*
- VERONICA BUXIFOLIA. *White.*
- VERONICA HYBRIDA (Autumn Glory). *Blue-purple.*
- YUCCA. *Aloe-like giant.*
- WEIGELA AMABILIS. *In sunny gardens these beautiful rose red or white flowering shrubs should succeed; also another species,*
- WEIGELA SPLENDENS. *Maroon leaves, yellow flowers.*



*Photo*

A BED OF ROSES

*Lucy*

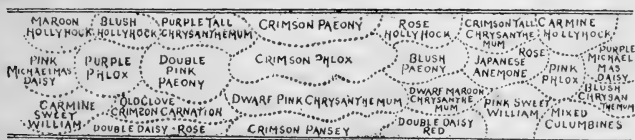


## CHAPTER XVI

### THE HARDIEST PERENNIALS AND BIENNIALS

Making Special Displays. German Irises. Phloxes. Michaelmas Daisies. Biennials. Hardy Plants in Pots. Oriental and Iceland Poppies. Lupins and Hybrid Pyrethrums.

WE have already thought out which hardy perennials are likely to thrive, either in city gardens or the happier ones on city outskirts, but attention has to be called to the manner in which we can use some to obtain quite remarkable effects.



A BORDER OF WARM COLOUR.

As a rule, if a garden-owner has discovered that a particular perennial (herbaceous plant) will flower well year after year with him, he tries to find others that will be as complaisant, and there he makes a

mistake. If he specialized in that plant, instead of experimenting with others, he would create a really remarkable garden.

Take the German iris for an example. It is so often found doing excellently, giving its rich violet-purple flag flowers without much encouragement, until at last it is choked by its luxuriance, stifled by its own offspring, so can only make leaves and smaller, weaker ones each year. Now there are dozens of florists' varieties of the German iris that the average town-dweller has never even seen, just as easy to cultivate, just as complaisant. The colours range from black-indigo, through wondrous blues, to pale lavender and white ; from deep crimson, terra-cottabrown, to bronze-gold, clear yellow and cream ; there are mauves flushed with red, and whites that blush with rose or peach. Let him send to some great firm for a collection of different sorts, plant them in deeply dug and well-manured borders, in sun or semi-shade (reserving the quite shady borders for the ordinary violet and the red-purple), nine inches to a foot apart, and then keep the surface ground hoed over, give water when necessary from April to September, and the reward will be speedy. As soon as the irises have formed a thicket they should be lifted, chopped into portions and replanted, either elsewhere or in the same border after it has been re-manured. Of course liquid manure and soot-water help the plants when their buds are forming, and a November mulch keeps them comfortable during winter, but this should be of manure with loam.

The hardy summer and autumn blooming phloxes are glorious plants for town gardens, and if a long border or a big bed is given up to them their display

will be considered marvellous, whereas a phlox or two in a mixed border will not excite much attention. They must have rich soil and be hoed round constantly, but really they are most robust. They prefer semi-shade.

A town garden all hollyhocks, daffodils, and pinks would be attractive from spring till autumn. If there were spaces where some pot chrysanthemums could be turned out each August the floral display would continue until November, possibly later.

Michaelmas daisies are astoundingly various. There are some almost like tall white heather, some nearly six feet high, with deep rose flowers, some that have big single starry blooms, others that have minute blossom set all along drooping or erect stems. The smaller growing sorts are not as robust as the giants, but there are few, if any, that would not embellish the ordinary town garden, if given some sunshine, enough food and drink, and hoe-ventilated soil.

The entire families of the various herbaceous species that will live should be represented, to produce notable results. Mixed borders are all very well, but specializing commands far more praise. Plants that should be chosen for this really representative kind of cultivation include delphiniums, golden rods, campanulas, lilies, carnations, sunflowers, and peonies.

In a lesser degree full shows might be made of Japanese anemones, the Shasta or Ox-eye daisies (*Chrysanthemum maximum*), day-lilies, pansies, potentillas and alum-roots (*Heucheras*).

Then there are families of plants that include distant kinsfolk, as when the common primrose is accompanied by polyanthuses, coloured and yellow

cowslips and auriculas, or dianthus are represented by spring's alpine pinks, Japanese pinks in summer, by carnations and sweet-williams and the common and the florist's pinks.

Many biennials that seed themselves are splendid for making borders gay, and it is a good plan to mulch these borders with finely-chopped old manure and soil each early November, so that the seedlings are protected. There are foxgloves, hollyhocks, sweet-williams, honesty, sweet rocket, and Canterbury bells. These seldom die out of gardens.

Hardy plants are often most successful in pots. If there is no garden, only stone courts, areas, or roof-tops, the town-dweller can buy medium tall perennials in October or November, pot them up, sink the pots in a deep bed of cinders out in the air, mulch over the tops of all with really old manure, and he will see growth sprouting forth in earliest spring, just as though his plants were in beds or borders.

After-culture is simple: lime scattered often among the pots will keep enemies away; repotting can be done when the pots are too full of roots; watering must be systematically carried out, also syringings, some weak liquid manures (and soot-water once or twice) should be given when buds are formed, not before; some staking and tying will be required. Blossoming plants can be used to adorn rooms for a few days at a time, then be stood out again in the air.

Alum-roots (*Heucheras*), Michaelmas daisies of medium growth, peonies, *doronicums*, snapdragons, sweet-williams, peach-leaved *campanulas*, Canterbury bells, the foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), spiderworts (*Tradescantias*), veronicas, pansies,



phloxes, and fleabanes (*Erigerons*) can be recommended.

There are certain plants that will flourish grandly for a year or so—perhaps only one season—then die out of some town gardens. I have known this happen with the grand Oriental poppies and the Iceland poppies.

Lupins and hybrid pyrethrums I have not advised for gardens, because insects seldom let them live. But for protected pot culture they are delightful. So too are columbines.

## CHAPTER XVII

### FINE WINTER EFFECTS

Paved Gardens. Dutch or Formal Gardens. Dwarf Shrubs.  
Winter Flowering Plants, Bulbs, etc. 'Everlasting' Flower  
and Seed Sprays. How to Dry Them.

**W**HEN the town gardener has become sufficiently experienced to be able to look back on a creditable summer, spring, and autumn display, he will naturally worry if his home appears dull during winter. Happily there are several things he can do—or choose between doing—to make the drear months decorative.

Let me begin by saying that money is well spent in paving a little front garden. Gravel or grass have their own charm, yet pavement, of the simple grey flagstone sort, or sunk dull red bricks, is always clean, or, at least, can be kept so with the minimum of trouble, and shows off every atom of flower, incidentally of leaf, as nothing else can do. Tiled paths with patterns in the tiles and crude colours are detestable. Many a town mansion would be marvellously improved by having the tiled walk, from gate to steps, exchanged for one of old flagstones.

Then sunk beds can be had in a paved garden,

and plants thrive excellently just below the ground level, escaping many frosts. There may be a sunk pool, if desired, and a raised plateau, up steps, for a sundial if there is sun exposure, or for a handsome stone urn otherwise. Of course, a fountain is permissible! There might be a stone balustrade along the verandah, with stone 'baskets' on it at intervals.

A few winter flowering plants will create a sensation in a front garden in a town. There really are a number of reliable beauties, such as the following, some of which have been mentioned in other chapters:—

**WINTER HELIOTROPE.**

(Usually known as *Tussilago fragrans*). Medium-tall hardy perennial, with loose spikes of minute lilac bloom in November and December. Very sweet. Plant in March, in semi-shade, or, if in full sunshine, preserve from drought. Rich soil, or give mulch each October.

**JAPANESE QUINCE** (*Pyrus*, or *Cydonia japonica*). The popular wall shrub, with scarlet bloom shaped like apple-blossom. Will succeed as a hedge in many gardens.

**PYRUS OR CYDONIA RUBRA GRANDIFLORA.** Scarlet. An erect strong shrub.

**PYRUS OR CYDONIA MAULEI.** A dwarf species most useful for urns or tubs. Brick red, or terra-cotta flowers.

*These all begin blooming in March, if not earlier. Plant them in October or February, the roots of the larger species six inches below ground.*

**JAPANESE GOLDEN BALL TREE** (*Forsythia suspensa*). A beautiful shrub that succeeds in many suburbs when trained against a wall, and gives golden bloom in February and March. Plant in October.

**YELLOW WINTER JASMINE** (*Jasminum nudiflorum*). Generally flourishes against porch or verandah pillars, with a west or south-west aspect, or south if watered during summer.

**VARIEGATED JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE** (*Lonicera japonica aureo reticulata*). The leaves are as gay as many flowers.

**SWEET DAPHNE** (*Daphne mezereum*). A four-foot shrub that has rose blossom all along bare boughs in February and March, then puts forth foliage and berries. Quite hardy. Needs sunshine. A lovely centre-piece in a sunk bed, or looks well in a border against a background of evergreens. Plant in October. There is also a yellow flowering variety.

**KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum amplexicaule*). Well worth trying. A hardy perennial that blooms naturally from September to November, of a deep red shade. 3 ft. tall. Plant in March or April.

**RED-HOT POKER** (*Tritoma* or *Kniphofia*). Several florist's varieties, all desirable, likely to be blooming still in November. Protect with cinder mulch each winter.

**CHRISTMAS ROSES** (*Helleborus niger*, etc.). White, green shaded. Plant in very rich soil in semi-shade. Hardy, but weather usually spoils the blooms unless the plants are covered by glass shades.

**MEGASEA** (or **SAXIFRAGA**)

**CORDIFOLIA**. Gives pink flower spikes in February, from among fine leaves. Excellent for beds, urns, boxes, or pots.

**IRIS RETICULATA**. February blooming, violet-and-gold, scented. Plant bulbs just below sunny soil in September or October. 9 in.

**IRIS SINDJARENSIS**. White-and-blue. March blooming. 1 ft.

**IRIS STYLOSA** or **UNGUICULARIS**. Azure blue and lavender. Blooms from November to March. All these need sunshine, and may also be cultivated as pot plants for winter effects in windows and conservatories.

**WINTER CROCUSES** should be planted in September, only just below soil. The hardiest are—

**CROCUS SUSIANUS**. Gold-and-bronze.

**CROCUS SUAVEOLENS**. Violet-and-fawn.

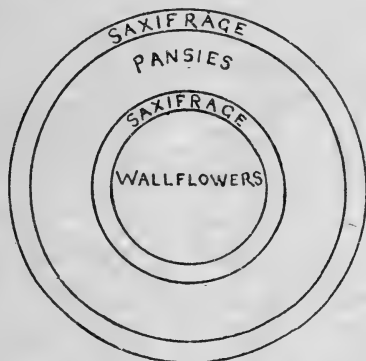
**CROCUS VITELLINUS**. Yellow, sweetly scented.

**HEPATICAS** (*Anemone hepatica*). Blue or rose; double or single. Begin in February. Semi-shade desirable. Plant in October.

There are also snowdrops, double and single, yellow winter aconite, and the blue *chionodoxa* is one of the earliest flowers in spring, good to associate

with the old-fashioned double daisies in red and white.

Trim clipped evergreen shrubs maintain a pretty appearance throughout winter, as we all know, but few gardeners realize the value of evergreen plants such as mossy saxifrages, wallflowers, London pride, pinks, etc., in winter gardens. It is by setting little



BED SPACED OUT PERMANENTLY BY MOSSY  
SAXIFRAGE.

shrubs in trim designs, with evergreen plants among them, and filling the spaces with tulips, crocuses, etc. etc., all of a height, that the Dutch, or formal, style of garden is gained.

As the vases indoors are of great consequence during the dull months, the town gardener should try to cultivate some of the perennials that give flowers, etc., for drying.

**HONESTY** (*Lunaria biennis*).

*Seeds itself year after year. Hardy. In sun or semi-shade. Magenta - purple flowers, followed by silver seed-vessels. These should be left on the plants till the stems are dry and crisp, then the outer covering of the seed-pods must be gently removed, the silver lining being then shown. Raise from seed in April or buy young plants in October.*

**GLADWIN IRIS.** *Plant rhizomes just under the soil in October. Loves damp ground, but seldom succeeds in shade. Can be grown in pots in frames. The seed-pods crack and show handsome red-orange berries.*

**CHINESE LANTERN PLANT** (*Physalis Alkekengi*). *Rich sunny bed or border. Plant in April. Gather the branches of orange-red fruit in September.*

**SEA LAVENDER** (*Statice latifolia*). *Spreading trusses of lavender blossom in late summer. Plant in November or March in sunny border or rockery. There are annual species that the town gardener should try to grow from seed each March.*

**GLOBE THISTLE** (*Echinops Ritro*). *Tall glistening grey hardy perennial, with blue globular flower-heads. Plant in October or April.*

**SEA HOLLY.** *Seldom successful in real town gardens. A fine race of handsome tall perennials with glistening silver or blue flower masses. Plant in October or April.*

**PAMPAS GRASS** (*Gynerium argenteum*). *This splendid grass will grow in open gardens in towns, and makes its best effect as a grass-plot ornament. Should be planted in April, in sunshine, and kept watered.*

For annual 'everlastings,' and bedding ones, Chapter XIX should be consulted.

All sprays, trusses, plumes, etc., for winter vases, should be dried by hanging them downwards from cords stretched across sunny rooms. They are very pleasing if well combined with dried field grasses, winter berries, etc., for table decoration or window bowls.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### DAILY ROUTINE AND SEASONABLE WORK

#### GENERAL WORK FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

**I**MPROVE vacant soil by adding manure, if it is poor. Ground that is enough manured can often be made better for plant-life by forking in plenty of road-grit—road sweepings without manure, taken from country roads—or crushed brick-rubble if there are no rhododendrons, which could not bear with the lime therein. Obtain these ingredients from builders or horticultural providers.

The opening and closing of greenhouse windows and of frames will be a task for common sense to decide, as no hard and fast rules can guide. A brilliant winter's afternoon may allow air to be given freely, to the great benefit of plants; whereas on damp, foggy, airless days the walls and stones, etc., of conservatories become soaked if there is much ventilation.

Water all pot plants with tepid water only.

No water should ever lie on floors in winter. If it

is thought that a fernery has become overdried by sunshine or artificial heat, standing a pail of water in it for some hours will soon moisten the atmosphere. Syringings are seldom needed now in open suburbs, but must be given fairly often, when frost is not present, in the centre of towns. This should be done in mornings, and if suitable air can be admitted to dry the place, well and good; otherwise windows should be closed and a small lamp, with talc chimney that will not crack, be stood inside for some hours. Use water that is not ice-cold.

Dead leaves have to be frequently swept up; if left on lawns or paths they make them slimy.

Uneven parts of walks should be remedied by lifting bricks, tiles, or flagstones and putting crushed mortar or cement beneath, and by scratching up the surface of gravel, filling in hollows with fresh gravel, watering and rolling often.

Cinder-ashes should be banked up against the wooden sides of frames.

Burn up, or otherwise get quite rid of, all decaying vegetation. Cut down hardy plants to within six inches of the soil. Be sure that mildewed rose boughs are all destroyed.

Keep the outside of the greenhouse glass well washed, as every bit of sun heat is of value.

See that all pots of growing plants are cleaned, by scraping or careful washing, on suitable days.

Mulch many borders, shrubberies, rose-beds, etc.

Water plants in mornings, not evenings.

Continue to sweep and roll lawns.

Prune straggly oleanders into shape.



### SPECIAL WORK FOR NOVEMBER

This is one of the chief bulb-planting months, so instructions already supplied should be carried out for the improvement of gardens, window-boxes, urns, etc.

Remove all suckers from the roots of lilac bushes. No pruning must be done, however, or there will be no flowers next year. This applies also to the mock orange (*Syringa* or *Philadelphus*) and to most flowering shrubs, which ought only to be cut back after they have bloomed.

Clean any oil-stoves that are used.

Arrange any coverings of mats, linen, or paper that may be needed to shelter plants from frost.

Lift all dahlias, bedding plants, etc.

Wrap up in sacking, yuccas, lemon verbenas, or other delicate plants that are in the open.

Continue to pot bulbs for the house.

Mow grass in the first week of the month, weather permitting, for the last time.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR DECEMBER

There is not much to do, except maintain good order, hoe, remove dead foliage, attend to safeguarding from the cold.

This is, however, an excellent month in which to build rockeries, make different terrace levels, reached by wooden, beaten-earth, brick, or pavement steps, in readiness for March plantings.



A HINT HOW TO ARRANGE STEPS, BOULDERS, AND ROCKERY.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR JANUARY

Prick over the soil among bulbs in beds, not going down more than half an inch, and avoiding the bulbs, of course. Add more coco-nut fibre refuse covering, if necessary; or, if there is none of this used, strew on a very little fresh loam or leaf-mould.

Prick over the surface soil of pot, box, and tub plants. Top-dress as above.

Use tepid water for delicate plants.

Mulch among clumps of hardy ferns, using equal parts of old manure, loam, and road-grit. The dead fronds should not be removed yet, as they serve to shelter new fronds that are starting below.

Hoe borders and beds after hard frosts have broken up.

If any shrubs or plants look badly frost-bitten; tie light canvas or newspapers over them, then they

will be thawed sooner. Remove these as soon as the work is done.

Strew ashes from vegetable fires over the best beds and borders.

Virginia creepers may be pruned back.

Strew greenhouse or frame floors with borax to banish ants and wood-lice.

Fill up crevices in wood or brick with Portland cement, adding a very little glue to the water used.





*Photo*

CLEMATIS

*Pussy*



## Part IV

# WORK IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL

## CHAPTER XIX

### HOME-RAISED PLANTS

When and how to Sow. Seeds that should Succeed. 'Everlastings.' Sweet Peas. Ornamental Grasses. Novel Suggestions for Pot Plants.

**I**T may seem discouraging, but I cannot advise the town gardener to try to raise many of his own bedding plants, or those to make window-boxes and balconies gay. Unless there is a fully-heated greenhouse, which is rare, plants cannot be grown quickly enough from seed to look creditable or bloom early enough.

But it is pleasant to raise *additional* plants, say for mixed borders, greenhouse and room adornment. Florists will supply all the well-grown 'bedding' stuff later, when it can be put where it is to grow.

Seed-sowing of most plants is best done in April (except certain tender kinds that May suits better) unless the greenhouse has a temperature of from 50

to 60° certain. Pans and quite shallow boxes are used, drained first by a few crocks, then by a little old coco-nut fibre refuse, or pulled-to-pieces tussocks of ancient turfs, under the compost. This should be of equal parts of loam and leaf-mould, with a quarter portion of fine silver sand. There may be less sand, and an eighth portion of the finest-chopped, oldest manure in the compost used to transplant most seedlings into.

The sown boxes should be covered by glass, shaded by a little dried moss or white paper, watered by partial immersion only, and kept always level, never slanted. An awkward tilt or shake will send the seeds all together.

Sowing must be carefully done on just damp soil ; the covering in should lie lightly, not be pressed hard. (*See Chapter V.*) The following flower-seeds usually give good results :—

Pansies, snapdragons, lupins (slugs are fond of them), sweet-williams, foxgloves, Canterbury bells, honesty, sweet rocket, Brompton stocks, Oriental poppies, Iceland poppies, lobelia (dwarf and trailing), French, African, Scotch, and English marigolds, columbines (aquilegias), forget-me-nots, candytufts, sweet alyssum, coloured primroses and cowslips, polyanthuses, asters, stocks, crimson beet, corn-flowers, clarkias, convolvulus minor, convolvulus major (climbing), canary creeper, double daisies (*Bellis perennis*), fuchsias, godetias, gypsophila elegans, annual sunflowers, heliotrope, hollyhocks, kochia tricophylla, larkspurs, sweet-peas, nasturtiums (Tom Thumb, Liliput, even smaller, and the climbing kind), tobacco plants, primula obconica, primula malacoides, Virginian stock, and wall-flowers.



Happily, seeds are nearly always sent out with cultural directions on the packets, so all the buyer need do is to order and obtain them early, then sort them into different classes for the different treatments.

There are a few special plants that must have special mention.

The 'everlastings' that are used for bedding are better bought as young plants in May, but if any are to be raised for gathering the finest are double and single helichrysums. They may be sown under glass in April or May, the seedlings pricked out two inches apart, in larger and deeper boxes, as soon as they are an inch tall; then may very likely require still another shift before they can be planted out in June. If so, the easiest plan is to put each into a tiny pot, then they can be turned out into borders or beds without receiving any check.

Other 'everlastings' are the annual sea lavenders—statice Bonduelli, yellow, and spicata, pink and white. These may be treated like helichrysums.

Miniature Fairy Roses are easy to raise, and the tiny bushes of single or semi-double, often eventually quite double blossoms, followed by wee red fruits, are very charming for pots, beds, or rockwork. Sow in April, each seed in a two-inch pot; keep moist, shaded, yet as warm as possible.

*Phacelia campanularia* is a gentian-blue hardy annual, nine inches high, that I recommend for sowing in large pots to stand out of doors. It will succeed sown in good beds, but only if there are no slugs or snails near. Seedlings can be transplanted into window-boxes.

Pots of blue or scarlet flax are pretty. Sow in April or May over surface-soil of pots, keep them

in cold frame or greenhouse, thin out the seedlings well, put sticks round the pot edges, and bands of raffia from stick to stick as for freesias, harden off early, and flower out of doors.

To grow sweet-peas in pots, sow five seeds (previously soaked for twelve hours) in a four-inch pot in March. Keep quite moist; give bottom heat, if possible, by plunging pots in manure up to the rims. Reduce the seedlings to three; pot on these together as the roots require it; use rich compost for the final potting, for which a seven-inch pot is large enough. Feed with liquid manure and fertilizer when buds are forming. Must have ample fresh air. Five seedlings may be permitted to grow on, if preferred, but the flowers will not be as fine.

Ornamental dwarf grasses make elegant pot plants, or may be sown in boxes or borders for gathering. Sow any of the following from March to July :—

MIST GRASS ( <i>Agrostis</i>	QUAKING GRASS	( <i>Briza</i>
<i>nebulosa</i> ). 9 in.	<i>maxima</i> ). 1 ft.	
LOVE GRASS ( <i>Eragrostis ele-</i>	FEATHER GRASS	( <i>Stipa</i>
<i>gans</i> ). 1½ ft.	<i>pennata</i> ). 2 ft.	

The three first are hardy annuals, and should be thinned out slightly. The last is a hardy perennial. Five seedlings may be grown in a four-inch pot till they flower, then be given a change to a five- or six-inch.

Any of the annual *eschsoltzias* can be sown over a six-inch pot, thinned out to an inch apart, and flowered in a sunny window, or on outside sills, where their yellow, orange, crimson-and-gold, dark rose, cream, or pale pink masses will be greatly admired.

Pots of the annual *bartonia aurea* may be similarly grown, reducing seedlings to four in a six-inch pot.

The prickly poppy (*Argemone mexicana*), which has silvery-grey thistle-like foliage and large cream poppy-shaped flowers, two feet tall, is a charming rarity of easy culture from seed. It looks best flowered as single plants in five-inch pots, but should be sown first three seeds in each small pot, as seedlings might damp off in the larger size.

Dwarf snapdragons are excellent outside window-sill pot plants.

Single China asters and ten-week stocks, phlox Drummondi, and love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascena coelestina*) will have time to bloom during summer and autumn, if sown in pots in April and May.

As a last suggestion, the town gardener who wants to make a sensation, should sow blue alkanet, (*Anchusa italica*, Dropmore variety) in March, three seeds in a four-inch pot. Sink the pots up to the rims in fresh manure that has stood out for three weeks and been turned over three times, in a deep box; pot on the three seedlings all together as the pots become filled with roots, till they occupy a nine-inch size, keeping them out of doors in sunshine from early May onwards. With good luck the anchusas should bloom in the same year, but if they do not, they can be housed in cold frames or airy attics, and will be glorious specimens early the following summer. The height is about four feet ultimately, but small specimens blossom. Liquid manure should be given when buds form. The colour is vivid cornflower blue.

## CHAPTER XX

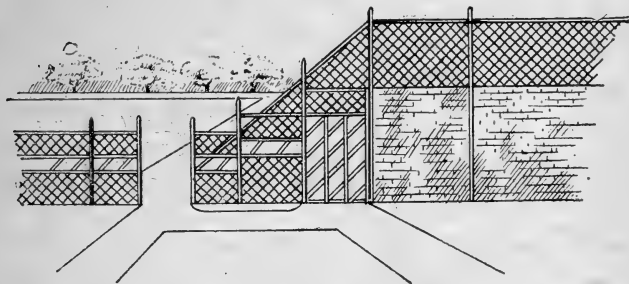
### BUYING TREES, CLIMBERS, ETC.

From Whom to Buy. How to Order. Selections of Climbers for all Aspects.

**W**HEN a town garden has to be furnished with trees, or gaps filled up where trees have failed, a nurseryman with knowledge of the locality should be consulted. This does not necessarily mean a local nurseryman. Indeed, it is more advisable to inquire of one of the large firms of European fame, for then their experience will be combined with their ability to provide healthy, well-grown, and perhaps uncommon specimens. The suburban grower for sale seldom stocks more than a few species and varieties, which are, consequently, to be met with in all the local roads!

There is no reason why acacias, laburnums, and hawthorns should have the world to themselves. When we buy climbers we should either make our own choice, or tell the firm we wish to choose for us the exact aspect to be furnished, the nature of the background, wood, brick, stone, stucco, etc., the quality of the soil, as far as we know it, and mention incidental circumstances, such as draughts, closeness to high buildings, railway lines, gasworks, etc.

There are climbers for all aspects, though not many for the coldest. Here are some suggestions. For North brick walls, or wooden close fences, or stone, stucco, etc., upon trellis woodwork, or painted wires stretched from staple to staple.



WOODEN SUPPORTS FOR CLIMBERS.

AMPELOPSIS QUINQUÆFOLIA.

The quickest growing virginia creeper.

AMPELOPSIS MURALIS. The large-leaved self-clinging species.

AMPELOPSIS VEITCHII. The small-leaved self-clinging variety.

IVY (*Hedera helix*).

— (*Atropurpurea*). Purple leaved. Usually quite hardy in towns, though unable to bear gales on an exposed hillside.

— (*Canariensis*). Common Irish ivy.

— (*Rægneriana*). Large, heart-shaped, leathery, deep green.

CANADIAN MOONSEED (*Meni-*

*spermum canadense*). A light-growing eleven to twelve foot climber, with bunches of small greenish-yellow blossom. Usually succeeds if planted in front of or between virginia creepers, to which it can cling. Needs water, but does not object to shade.

DOUBLE-FLOWERING BRAMBLE (*Rubus fruticosus plenus*). The double-flowering blackberry. Very pretty, and has been tried successfully in London.

EUONYMUS JAPONICUS RADICANS. The plain green, not the variegated, usually flourishes when nailed up as a climber.

Yellow winter jasmine may be grown against either virginia creeper, euonymus, or ivy.

*For East walls, or close wooden fences, or wires, or trellis woodwork in front of stone, stucco, etc.*

JAPANESE WINEBERRY  
(*Rubus phoenicolasius*).

*Whitish bloom, handsome foliage, cerise-red edible fruits. Will grow ten feet high.*

JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE  
(*Lonicera japonica*). *Plain green, with reddish - white flowers.*

YELLOW WINTER JASMINE  
(*Jasminum nudiflorum*).

IVY (*Hedera helix*).

— (*Algeriensis*). *Yellowish green, large leaved, rapid growing.*

— (*Dentata*). *Dark green, toothed leaves, large.*

— (*Digitata*). *Dark green, cut-out leaves, veined white.*

— (*Marmorata*). *Large, blotched with cream.*

IVY (Variegata). *Common ivy, blotched with creamy yellow.*

COMMON HOP (*Humulus lupulus*). *Cut down each November.*

TRAVELLER'S JOY (*Clematis vitalba*). *Whitish scented bloom, fluffy seed-heads. Grow against virginia creepers.*

WHITE JASMINE (*Jasminum officinale*).

JAPANESE QUINCE (*Pyrus*, or *Cydonia japonica*). *Scarlet.*

THE FIRE THORN (*Cratægus pyracantha*). *White blossom, orange - scarlet berry clusters.*

COMMON GOLDEN BROOM  
(*Cytisus scoparius*). *Tie up to virginia creepers, or ivy.*

*For South walls, or close wooden fences, or open trellises and railings.*

ROSES. *All climbing roses, except that the Ramblers and climbing Polyanthas and Wichuraianas will not flourish on walls or close wood with a hot aspect, though open palings and trellises suit them, through*

*which air can pass. All roses must have enough air and light.*

CLEMATISES. *(All must have fairly pure air.)*

— (*Clematis montana*). *White, in spring.*

— (*Clematis Jackmanii*).

*Violet, purple, red, plum, flesh, lavender, etc. Very 'tricky' climbers; so may not succeed. Safer on south-west or west aspects, or even east.*

— (Calycina). *An ever-green, with rather ineffective creamy, purple - marked flowers, in earliest spring. Foliage very attractive.*

VIRGIN'S BOWER (Clematis flammula.) *White, fragrant.*

VARIEGATED J A P A N E S E HONEYSUCKLE (Lonicera japonica aureoreticulata). *Beautiful tinted, gold-netted foliage.*

MOUNTAIN SWEET (Ceanothus azureus). *Blue, spiræa-like flowers. For suburban wall only. 10 ft.*

ESCALLONIA MACRANTHA INGRAMI. *For suburban walls or close fences. Rosy red. 6 ft.*

VARIEGATED EUONYMUS (Euonymus japonicus). *Gold or silver variegated.*

IVY (Hedera helix). *Marginalata rubra. Shaded with rosy-red. Small leaved, silver and rose variegated.*

JAPANESE GOLDEN BALL TREE. (Forsythia suspensa). *Yellow, in March, or earlier. 6 ft.*

MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA. *Huge cream-white blooms. Is said to succeed in any atmosphere, if it has deep, rich, well-drained soil, a sunny aspect, and a brick wall.*

*For West walls, close fences, or stone, stucco, etc., with trellis woodwork, or painted wires, or wire-netting in front.*

ROSES. *Ramblers, Climbing Polyanthas and Wichurianas, Gloire de Dijon, J. B. Clark, scarlet-crimson, Captain Christy, pale pink, Félicité Perpetué, white, in clusters, succeed even in the hearts of many towns.*

CUT - LEAVED BLACKBERRY (Rubus laciniata). *Pretty foliage, blossom, and excellent fruit.*

EVERGREEN VIRGINIA CREEPER (Ampelopsis

sempervirens). *Does not become bare. Self-clinging. For walls.*

WISTARIA SINENSIS. *Blue-lilac. Another 'tricky' climber. May thrive on a west wall in one district, but require a south one in another. For walls only. GOLDEN HOP (Humulus lupulus aurea). Same as the Common Hop, but the young-foliage is yellow.*

Most of the jasmines, honeysuckles, ivies, virginia creepers, and clematises already mentioned may be grown with confidence with a western aspect.

Ugly walls should be covered by trellis woodwork and climbers. Many walls can be made more sightly and useful by rustic or ordinary trellis woodwork on their tops.



## CHAPTER XXI

### VIOLETS, AND OTHER BUTTONHOLE FLOWERS

How to grow Violets in Borders and Frames. Carnations, Double Primroses. Ranunculuses.

**V**IOLETS may be grown, in absolute perfection, in frames not only 'within sound of Bow Bells,' but within sight of the Tower of London. So no town-dweller need complain of 'the impossibility of growing anything.' But there are thousands of gardens in environs of cities in which violets flourish in the borders, so we will start by planning their culture.

The two best sorts to begin with are the Czar, the well-known rich violet-blue, and Princess of Wales, which is slightly more purple, and grows with the long strong stalks that are such a convenience. Florists will provide roots, or 'crowns' as they are called, in April, which is the right month for planting.

The beds should be well made up—by beds I mean the plantation sites in borders, for it is a pity to dot violets about a garden—good fresh loam being enriched with really old manure, made porous by the addition of road-grit, if necessary. A soil that is naturally too light has to have clayish loam mixed in, but town soils are mostly damp and heavy. There should be no exposure to full sunshine, so a border

that faces north-west is ideal, a north one will do, and a west one often answers ; if there is a hedge at the back the violets should not be placed too close to it. Many violet beds are successful under light-growing deciduous trees, such as laburnums and acacias.

The 'crowns' are planted nine or twelve inches apart, in well-moistened soil, and should not be watered until the moisture has dried out, as their roots never take hold of 'mud.' As they grow well during summer, runners will spring from them, and these must be removed while young, and the ground kept free from all weeds. While violets must not be allowed to shrivel up in times of drought, the gardener must realize that supplying water to them is always dangerous. When it has to be done the wetted soil should be just pricked over, and some fresh compost sprinkled over it between the plants. A mulch of old manure and leaf-mould can be given in November ; another in March to old-established beds.

For frame culture plants can be lifted from the border (or new ones bought on purpose) and planted, about seven inches apart, in rich beds made up in sunny frames. These beds should be so deep that the leaves and flowers of the violets will nearly touch the glass. Once again, the soil should be quite moist, the 'lights' put over closely for several days, air be given sparingly for some weeks, and no more water supplied. After the first weeks there should be ample ventilation whenever possible.

The runners from a few border plants can be allowed to grow large enough to root themselves in the surrounding ground, then be detached in September or April and used to make young beds.

Carnations are delightful buttonhole flowers, and the plants do not mind smoke. But they need light

sandy, yet rich enough soil, so it is wise to cultivate them by themselves, in raised beds in full sunshine, especially as the borders are sure to contain wire-worms, or the smaller eel-worms, that destroy them. The soil must not be made as hard as for other perennials; only the hardiest border varieties should be bought; sticks and ties must be given every flower stem, or a fencing of sticks, with raffia bands, round each plant; and traps of halved potatoes, partly scooped out and greased, should be sunk under the soil.

The perpetual-flowering carnations are of immense value, but, unfortunately, amateurs seldom succeed with them. The best plan is to grow them in pots from the first; keep the pots out from April to November, then in cold frames or unheated green-houses. At any season of the year, if flower-buds have formed, the plants may be put into moderately heated glasshouses to hasten the opening. I cannot recommend them for London gardens. The *Allwoodii* perpetual pinks are far safer.

Double-coloured primroses can be advised also for buttonhole blossoms. They flourish in semi-shady rockeries.

Lilies-of-the-valley (*convallaria*) are often found thriving in shady borders. They need encouragement in May, so a mulch, and occasional liquid manures, should be given. New beds are planted in September or October, the 'crowns' only just covered and three inches apart. Exhausted beds should be broken up, the crowns divided, and the portions used, those of similar size put together, to make fresh beds elsewhere.

Turban ranunculuses are admirable for button-holes; their culture has been described.

## CHAPTER XXII

### ROCK GARDENING AND ALPINE PLANTS

Why Plants are safer in Rockeries. Where to make Rockeries. Small Perennials and Alpines. Other Plants to Try. Rockeries all for Bulbous Plants.

**R**OCKERIES are homes in which many plants will keep in full health that would sicken and fail on level soil. The reasons are various. There is a depth of good earth ; the big stones not only give shelter but prevent the soil from drying up, yet keep warmth in it and intercept frost. The plants have occasional shade, as the sun shifts, and are less pelted by hail, less battered by winds, than their border brethren. Any bank may have a rockery side, so may a raised bed or grass plot. Other rockeries can be built against front or back steps, along the edge of the verandah, to surround tubs, barrels, box-beds, rain-water butts, on area slopes, against any walls, of course. They do not need garden space, for a mound of good soil thrown down on some stones, broken bricks, and coarser earth, ringed round by rocks, dotted over by slabs and craggy pieces, becomes a rockery whether it is upon a roof-top, a porch-top, a backyard, or the area pavement.

All small hardy perennials are suitable for filling rockeries, and we have already considered which are the most likely to do well in towns. There are some 'alpines,' etc., that may settle down comfortably in rockeries though they would fail on the level.

Japanese pinks (*Dianthus Heddwigii*) are gay, rich, and beautiful, and florists offer young plants freely in May. *Viola cornuta* is a spreading plant that becomes covered with daintiest lavender-blue blossoms that continue all the floral months, if seed-vessels are assiduously picked off. Pink and white alpine poppies are real gems. Purple rock-cress (*Aubrietia*) will make mauve sheets very early in the year, and there are crimson, rose, red-violet, and blue varieties also.

Other plants that should be tried, though only experience can decide if they will consent to become town-dwellers, are the perennials—

LITHOSPERMUM PROSTRATUM.	Evergreen trailer, with blue flowers.	PLENA. Double.	Pink.
		1½ ft.	
NEPETA MUSSINI.	Lavender-blue spikes. 1 ft. tall.	VERONICA SPICATA.	Blue, in spikes. 1½ ft.
		VERONICA SPICATA ALBA	Pure white. 1½ ft.
OXALIS CORNICULATA ATROPURPUREA.	Gold, with bronze foliage. 7 in.	ACHILLEA TOMENTOSA.	Gold. 6 in.
PLATYCODON MARISSII.	Deep blue cup flowers. 1 ft.	POTENTILLA, GIBSON'S	SCARLET. Single vermilion flowers. 1 ft.
SAPONARIA OCYMOIDES.	Trailer. Rose pink.	SOLIDAGO BUCKLEYI.	A miniature golden rod. 1 ft.
SAPONARIA OFFICINALIS			

Instructions for rockery building have been given in Chapter II. There may be much soil and few rocks. Just a dozen or so boulders and slabs will turn a twenty-four-foot length of wide border into

one type of rock garden, while a compact rockery will show scarcely any soil between the plants when these have grown to maturity. Let the soil be rich six inches below the level or dwarf subjects, nine inches below for semi-dwarfs, one foot below for medium tall, and add more manure two feet

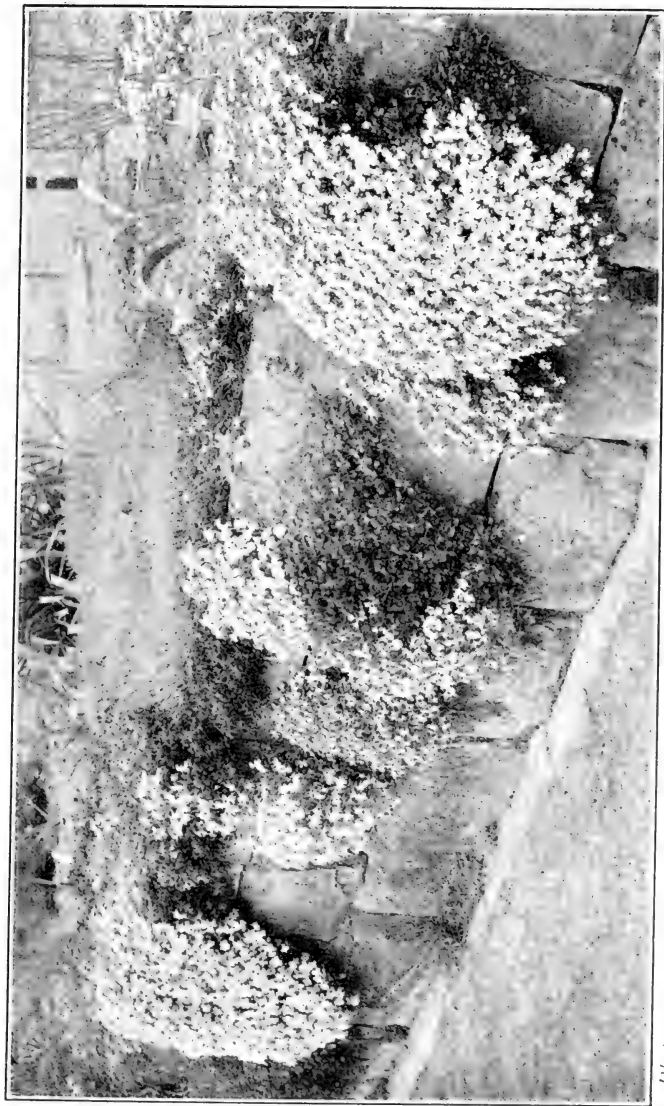


A ROCKERIED MOUND.

A Iceland popples.  
 B Pansies.  
 C *Arabis alpina*.  
 D White pinks.  
 E Pink sweet-williams.  
 F *Sedum spectabile*.  
 G *Colchicums*.  
 H Crimson clove carnations.  
 I White clove carnations.  
 J *Linaria dalmatica*.

K Gold Pansy.  
 L Dwarf red chrysanthemum.  
 M *Anchusa italica*.  
 N *Iberis sempervirens*.  
 O Blue lungwort.  
 P *Geranium Endressi*.  
 Q Mauve rock cress.  
 R Orange hawkweed.  
 S Blue hepatica.

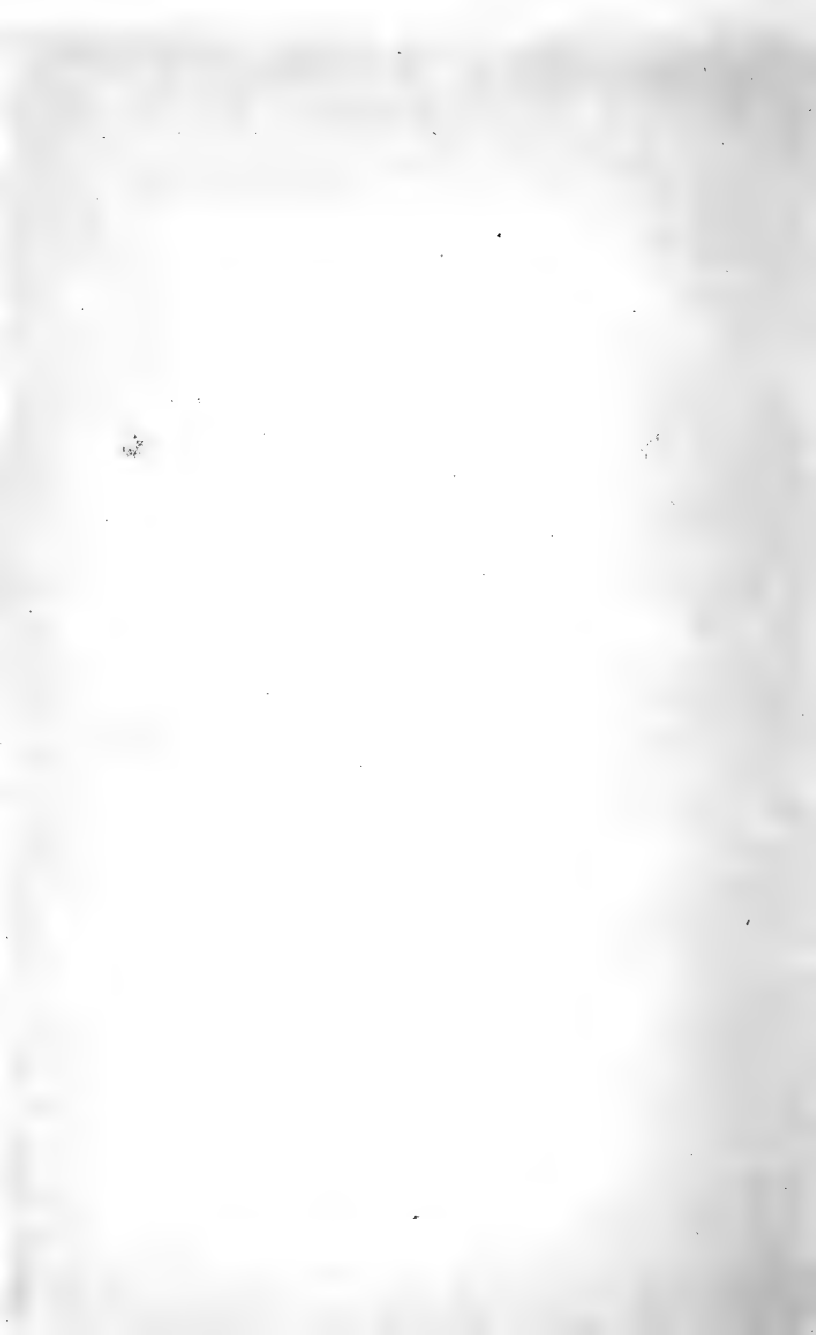
deep for giants. Care must be taken that no stones or rock slabs obstruct the way of roots. All should be kept on a slant, so that rain can run off after the ground is sufficiently soaked. Avoid uniformity of height. Employ tall and long rocks, short and long, broad and narrow, and of a great diversity



*Photo*

AUBRETIAS ON THE WALL

*Malby*





of size. Place some pairs slanting away from each other; place other pairs leant together to touch their tips. Let there be similar diversity in the size of plants. Three-inch, or even two-inch high alpines have their worth, for growing in scarcely any soil in basin-hollows of large slabs of rock, where colour sheets will have real charm. A few lofty plants, such as red-hot poker and golden rods, will prevent a monotonous appearance.

A rockery all for bulbous plants would be a novel feature for a garden: ranunculuses, Spanish, English, and other irises, montbretias, allium moly, yellow, the summer snowflake (*Leucojum æstivum*), Turk's cap lilies, and Madonna lilies could furnish it from May to October, when the Caffre flag (*Schizostylis*), meadow-saffrons, and the autumn-flowering crocuses, crocus ochroleucus, cream-and-orange; *C. pulchellus*, lavender, blue-and-orange; *C. speciosus*, violet-blue; *C. sativus*, yellow-and-violet, could fill a gap till winter crocuses, winter heliotrope, snowdrops, Christmas roses (in shady nooks), and the azure iris *alata*, would rise from the stones.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### A NUMBER OF NOVEL SUGGESTIONS

Blue, Gold, other Self-coloured Gardens. Suiting Flower Colours to House Colours. Climbers for Balconies without Pillars. Dahlia Gardens. Various Novel Gardens. Wild-flower Culture. Rare Plants. Making Use of Attics.

**I** REMEMBER a front garden in a Kensington road that was always called 'the blue garden,' and had become a noted feature of the neighbourhood. Massing plants that all have flowers of one colour is a simple expedient for engaging the attention that is sure to include praise. We can fancy the cheering, sunshiny effect of an all-gold garden, in front of a dull grey house, maybe, and with plenty of dark evergreen shrubs to show up the blossoms. Personally I should vote for edgings entirely of box or London pride. If the site is not too draughty for golden privet, plenty of those shrubs alone, with golden rod, yellow violas, wallflowers, a few sunk pot chrysanthemums, and common stonecrop, will have a sufficiently sunshiny appearance to make the heart leap, on the greyest day. Elders are not averse to smoke, and the golden elder is always a joy to witness.

A house that is painted cream or ochre is the

harmonious background to all violet flowers ; a house of the ugly dun hue too often found in London and other cities, needs flame-salmon and scarlet ; a house of new red brick is always suited by white, blue, or pale yellow ; old red brick tones with all colours but rose pinks and carmine, which last colours will go with grey, but are most satisfactory with cream or white. It is an admirable plan to paint houses quite pale greens, when floral adornments are in prospect.

Some houses have balconies that are not supported by pillars. In order to induce climbers to mount to them quickly, to be trained along the railings or stone balustrades, clematises, jasmine, hops, roses, etc., can be planted some distance out in the garden below, and trained to stout string, or bamboo poles latticed between by string, slanted inwards up to the balcony platform. When there are open railings to balconies or porch-tops, overhanging vegetation should be a feature : ivy-leaved geraniums are frequently seen ; canary creeper, the common climbing nasturtium, represented in its countless 'self' colours and blends, climbing convolvulus major also, the purple bellflower (*Cobæa scandens*) are other plants that will blossom hanging down.

A rare show can be gained by cultivating the trailing fuchsia (*Fuchsia procumbens*), seven plants in a nine-inch pot of good soil, either sowing it in heat in March or buying young plants in May. The pendant trails are often twelve feet long, and, though leaves and the many tinted fairy-lantern blossoms are small, the latter will give place to cerise 'cherries' that are highly decorative.

Dahlias are most accommodating town flowers, and it is a comfort to grow something that is lifted,

and housed safely in dry bulb state, during winter. By combining single, single cactus, the symmetrical ball-headed show species, cactus, decorative, pom-pone, and Tom Thumb kinds, great diversity of heights is obtained. Dahlias may follow a display of hyacinths and tulips, that are also lifted, while turban ranunculuses and Spanish irises would give bloom in between the spring and late summer.

A large round bed on a square of gravel, or plot of turf, becomes less troublesome to adorn if a fencing of painted trellis-work or painted wire-netting encircles it to the height of a yard, or rather more, and a clematis montana grandiflora is planted at one side, a clematis Jackmanii at the other, then trained round it. Merely single dahlias, or golden rods, hollyhocks, delphiniums, tall snapdragons, or pampas grass, with a ring of standard geraniums or fuchsias about the clump, would furnish the inner space.

I have just seen a novel small front garden in Kilburn. The grass-plot had a ring of big, nearly square stone blocks, set with corners touching, right on the grass, with a plant of St. John's wort behind each, spraying over the grey rock. Grass showed inside, and then there rose a weeping standard of the climbing polyantha rose, Hiawatha, crimson, white-centred, for middle height. The turf had been newly clipped, and the old picturesque rocks showed up excellently.

Perhaps the easiest bed to manage is one of mixed dwarf polyantha roses, carpeted by variegated arabis. These roses need no scientific pruning, but to be just tipped, made symmetrical, and cleared of many of their too thick inner branches each early April; and this kind of arabis maintains a

tidy growth, so requires only to have its dead blossom cut off.

Wild-flower culture is possible in a town, and there is certainly pleasure to be derived from associating field daisies, poppies, devil's-bit scabious, the blue cornflowers called 'blue-bottles,' now so rare in fields, with oats, meadow-sweet, spotted foxgloves, golden broom and gorse, brambles, traveller's joy, and dog-roses. Honeysuckle is not likely to live, but every gardener should be eager to experiment ; primroses will increase and multiply, of course, and bracken-fern has a noble effect and becomes gorgeously autumn-tinted.

A front garden may be of pavement, rockeries, a sunk pool (preferably fed generally by rain-water, with an overflow into a drain), and planted all with hardy ferns, slow-growing, creeping, or erect ivies, a few Solomon's seals and foxgloves.

A garden, tree-shaded, with a cold aspect, in a London street, was once made pretty by having a stone pedestal with vase planted only with ivy in the centre of a bed given up to periwinkle and quite small shrubs of gold-variegated euonymus. The triumph was the reward of careful tending, for the shrubs were always clipped perfectly neat, stood in rows a yard from each other, jutting out from the pedestal-like spokes of a wheel ; and the periwinkle was kept pegged down evenly to cover the intervening wedge-shaped spaces.

Take some rare plant for a hobby favourite, and mass it, is one meritorious suggestion. There is a 'blue Rambler' rose, called *Veilchenblau*, that will live in a town. Plant it wherever it can be accommodated, give it dead trees, tree trunks, poles, pillars of the verandah, arches, trellis gates,

porch sides, or railings to adorn. Plant some trees of it on bank summits, and let it trail. The colour is 'steel,' not true blue, but quite blue enough to astound people, and it is not costly.

If delphiniums will live, leave the blues alone for once, and mass the purple and mauve varieties. If Oriental poppies will, avoid the scarlet, and have as many plants as possible of the salmon pink. Go in for violet perennial phloxes, violet wall-flowers, violet tulips, or for 'ray' or ostrich-feather China asters, cup-and-saucer pink Canterbury bells, rosy-red Michaelmas daisies, yellow snapdragons, orange-scarlet cowslips, black pansies, the new red gaillardia-flowered annual sunflower, the primrose fig-leaved hollyhock, striped sweet-peas, green pompone dahlias, or pink violas. In short, be always on the watch for a beautiful or quaint rarity; then obtain sufficient to make a sensational display of it.

Grow flowers where neighbours do not grow theirs, if possible. Have a portion, at least, of an attic glass roofed, with windows to open like a greenhouse, and turn it into a home for spring bulbous flowers, then for some palms, cacti, cras-sulas, eucalyptuses, etc.; later for chrysanthemums.

A charming fern-house can be made in a glass-roofed attic on the shady side of a town mansion.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### DAILY ROUTINE AND SEASONABLE WORK

**O**BTAIN ingredients for potting and seed-sowing compost, and clean pots, pans, boxes, etc. Prepare crocks for drainage by breaking up broken flower-pots and passing the pieces through wire sieves, keeping large, medium, and very small crocks separate.

Prepare ground for sweet-peas. Manure and dig beds and borders that are vacant. On wet days see if the tiffany sheets or greenhouse blinds need mending.

Order seeds and plants in good time. Thin out overcrowded shrubberies or remove shrubs that are failing through being below tall trees.

Fumigate greenhouses.

Clean out frames. Scatter carbolic liquid beneath frames, which should always be slightly raised on bricks, if with flooring. Frame sides and 'lights' put over beds will rot unless painted with tar just where the wood presses on the earth.

Surround pot plants or seed-boxes in frames with a few inches of sharp cinders. Begin to lay leaf traps for slugs, and go out to examine them at nightfall.

## SPECIAL WORK FOR FEBRUARY

Examine foliage of all large-leaved pot plants, and the shoots of lilioms, to see if any green-fly is upon them. If so, sponge with water made lathery with carbolic soap, and wash off half a day later.

Buy a blossoming laurestinus shrub for window by day and for the dinner-table by night, for the scent will be delightful. Stand the shrub out of doors during summer.

Old fuchsias may be started. Repot them, using turf-loam, leaf-mould, and a little sand, but use pots the same size, or rather smaller, after cutting away any diseased or dead roots. There is no need to try to preserve the lower half of each ball of soil when turning the old plants out of their pots. Put them in a greenhouse, where the temperature is 60° or more, or place inside a south window, and keep watered and sprinkled. They may be cut into shape at the same time.

Perennials in the garden can be divided and replanted, if they are hardy sorts and the weather permits.

If any pot plants become frozen, shut them in a dark cupboard for a day to thaw, after sprinkling them with cold water.

## SPECIAL WORK FOR MARCH

Prune old pot geraniums into shape, and use the parts removed as cuttings. Cut them just below a slightly woody bit of stem, if possible. Insert a third of the length in very sandy loam, press in firmly, stand close to glass, keep the soil from drying up, but do not water much.



Scatter finely-chopped decayed horse manure evenly over lawns, grass edgings, etc. Sweep the grass in a week's time if there have been rainfalls to wash the goodness in, if not, bear with the unsightliness a little longer.

Many mulches have to be given in March, in accordance with instructions in previous chapters; rose-trees and flowering shrubs must not be forgotten.

Prune the very hardiest roses at the end of the month. Wall climbers (other than Banksian yellow and Banksian white, which must not be touched till they have bloomed) are to be dealt with first. Merely tip the shoots, and remove overcrowding boughs and weak little twiggy growth. Rambler roses can be tipped and thinned out. Hardy perpetual standard and bush roses ought to be pruned by an expert, but the general rule is to limit the number of chief boughs, removing the weak ones, and then cut the shoots from those boughs back to within six to twelve inches of the main stem; some immense old bushes would be spoilt, for garden effect, if reduced too much.

Many rose-trees in borders can have some of their long young branches stretched out on each



OLD ROSE-TREE TRAINED TO ESPALIER.

side to espalier supports, thus making a kind of hedge and leaving the centre branches ample space.

This is a fit month for planting roses.

Plant hardy perennials.

Divide and remake edgings of double daisies (*Bellis perennis*), London pride, thrift, etc.

Start fern-balls into growth by soaking them very thoroughly and hanging them in warm positions against glass.

### SPECIAL WORK FOR APRIL

Plant ivies. The best way is to stretch the new plant along the surface of the soil against the wall or fence, and peg it down here and there. A climber so treated will actually get up the wall faster than if it had been nailed up at once.

Repot ferns and all other plants that need it.

Sow pots with hardy annuals ; sow hardy annuals out of doors ; sow pans, boxes, and pots of half-hardy annuals and perennials, placing receptacles in greenhouse, frames, or windows. Fill window-boxes with soil ready to plant with 'summer stuff' in May.

Sow grass seed or lay turves.

Sow sweet-peas out of doors.

Top-dress the herbaceous border and shrubberies.

Lawn-mowing will have to be done when the grass is not too wet. Sweepings and rollings should be frequent.

Plant carnations, clematises, Virginia creepers, jasmines, Japanese honeysuckles, if desired. Make new violet beds.

Aralias and palms are only to be repotted when

roots are showing at the base of pots, or when the balls of soil are found to be closely matted with roots. To ascertain this, the fingers should press the crocks upwards, through the drainage hole (after the plant has been watered by immersion in tepid water up to the pot's rim), till the whole balls of soil will move, and slip out into the palm of one hand, or on to the knee in the case of a giant specimen. It would not be possible to move a plant out in this fashion while dry; the tepid water loosens the roots' hold on the sides of the pottery. If the palm does not need repotting it should be gently lowered back into the same pot and top-dressed with a little fresh compost. The florist will supply proper compost for palms, or the gardener may use equal parts of fresh loam and peat, with a sixth part of silver sand.

Plants of all sorts should be thoroughly watered, then left to partially dry, before they are repotted.

Palms, aralias, aspidistras, castor-oil plants, etc., often go brown at the tips. This is a sign that some roots are partly diseased, owing to sourness of soil. It is advisable to repot, but to use as small a fresh pot, or one a size smaller, if possible. As a rule, these plants, excepting aralias, only need repotting every third year, but disease renders a shift essential.

Ivy should be trimmed on walls and fences.

Prune clematis *Jackmanii* by shortening last year's shoots two-thirds of their length.

Sponge all large, shiny-leaved pot plants, including palms and aspidistras, with tepid milk and water, to give the leaves a gloss.

Repot cacti, when absolutely necessary, giving only a very little more room. Use a compost of

two parts loam, half a part of old chopped cow manure, half a part of coarse sand, half a part of crushed mortar or white bricks.

Sow mignonette in pots or window-boxes. It seldom succeeds in real town-garden borders. Add a quarter part of crushed mortar to the ordinary loam, leaf-mould, and sand compost; or builder's lime, a dessertspoonful to a pint, will do instead.

Now is the time to remove some buds from rose-trees, in order that others may grow into fine blooms. Keep suckers removed from the base of rose-trees, but take care that they *are* briar-growth, not new shoots of the roses. There are so many different 'stocks' used now that no rules can be laid down absolutely as to how to recognize suckers from the briar; however, the leaves are generally a great deal more toothed than those of the rose, and are a different shade, so the careful gardener will learn to discriminate. Syringe rose-trees with a solution of four ounces of quassia chips in a gallon of soft water; after it has stood for a day the addition of two ounces of soft-soap, and two more gallons of water, is excellent for a second syringing, a week later. Always syringe with plain water twelve hours or so after using any insecticide.

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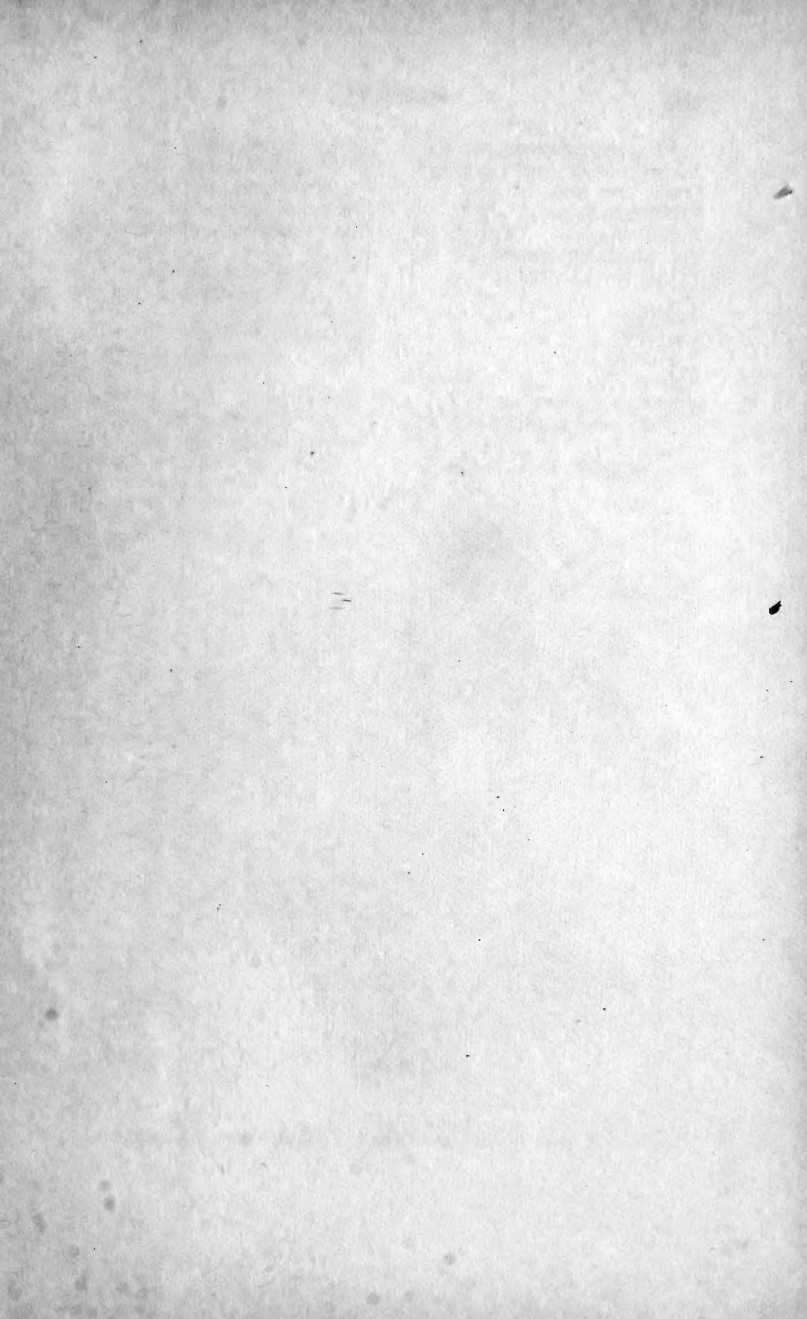
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