

## Plants and Flowers.

## TRAINING MEMORIAL ROSE.



OSA Wichuriana or Memorial rose, now so popular, is a plant which yields readily to any desired form of training. Its natural manner of growth is creeping over the ground, where it roots down frequently, making a perfect mat. It is beautiful grown in that way, but still more so when trained upward; its slender wiry stems are not easily broken and sway gracefully with every passing breeze when deprived of their natural support. When the rose is planted, a stout stake about 4½ ft above ground should be set beside it, the branches tied fast to the stake every few inches until they reach nearly to the top of the stake. They can then be allowed to grow naturally and will drop over in all directions, making a beautiful and graceful fountain-like plant.

No handsomer ornament can be found for the lawn, and when the plant is in blossom its shining white sinuous roses with their wealth of golden stamens give an added beauty in combination with the dark, glossy foliage. The plants can be trained to cover an arch in a very short time, one or two plants being set at each end and tied fast every few inches. They grow very rapidly, and when they have reached the opposite side from where they were planted, can easily be trained downward to the ground, when the tips will throw out roots, thus making a plant which is attached to the ground at both ends. They can then be trained back over the arch again, making a heavier covering of foliage. [Bernice Baker, Ill.]

## FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN.

Some farmers use their yards for calf pasture, lame horses and sick cows, so that no flowers can be raised there, and raise a row of their wives' plant flowers in the garden. They say they have no money to spend for flower seeds and plants. Feel in their pockets and you will find a plug of "Battle Ax" and a sack of "Mail Pouch" for their pipes, but no money for their wives' pleasure. Because he is a hog is no reason why he should crush out of his wife all sense of the beautiful and seek to bring her to his level. It is said that when a hog begins to squeal if you will turn him upside down he will stop. The theory is that he has always gone rooting and looking down in the dirt and has never seen the sky, that when he sees it for the first time he is so overcome with surprise that he stops to wonder and admire. If some of these human hogs could get their noses out of the dirt and have their natures turned upside down long enough to see the beauty and glory of God all about them they would cease their everlasting grunting when their wives ask for flowers. Let your wife have a flower border in the garden and don't stint her in money when she wants seeds and plants for the same. And when they bloom, if you love your wife for her sake go and look at them, and it won't be long until you will love them for their sake and perhaps some day they may lead you to love him who clothed them with more beauty than was Solomon in all his glory. [W. L. Anderson, Ind.]

## THE BLUE AFRICAN LILY.

Whenever this lily graces the lawn of any home it will be admired for its luxuriant lily-like foliage and tall stems crowned with an immense tuft of blue flowers as large as a man's hat. A great many amateurs when making their selections omit this because they think it hard to raise. I have found it one of the easiest of all the lilies to raise, and a large blue flower makes it conspicuous, as that color seems always scarce.

A large lily needs a large box or tub, as the fleshy roots require plenty of room and they do not like to be disturbed. Get as large a plant as possible and put it in a receptacle large enough so that it will not have to be disturbed for several years. It revels in the hot sun with plenty of water,

There will be no use in ordering a small plant, as it will require at least three years to blossom. They are quite hardy to transport by mail or express and will endure a great deal of neglect but will stand no freezing. They are an evergreen like the common white lily (Candidum) of the garden; in other words, they do not shed their leaves like other lilies. This lily is oftentimes known as the agapanthus. [Mrs John Gaillard, Erie Co., Pa.]

## SUPPORT FOR CLIMBING PLANTS

A framework of willows is shown in the upper figure, arranged in a circle around a center rod. Select long, smooth willow wands, plant firmly in the ground about 1 ft from center pole or rod, gather the tips neatly together and secure with twine or ring of wire. Plant sweet peas about 4 in from the willows. Such a support is also suitable for the cypress or balloon vine. Rightly made and firmly fixed



such a support will stand the test of storms and winds and make a pretty ornament.

Another form of support for climbers is shown by the lower figure. Three stout rods of any desired length are used as braces. Firmly secured to these by wires are eight circles formed of willow wands. These may be twisted or braided before being joined in a circle. If desired, the two circles nearest the base may be omitted. This gives an umbrella effect, and the swaying plants, climbing and throwing out tendrils in all directions form an object of beauty. We have used this plan for a center piece for a circular flower bed, arranging geraniums upon the extreme edge of bed, and with good effect, while the climbing plants occupied the inner place nearest supports. [Mrs A. C. McPherson, Athens Co., O.]



## NEW AND RARE CARNATIONS.

The carnation of commerce ranks with roses and violets in popularity and during the past 10 years has been improved more than any other greenhouse flower. The popular varieties of a decade ago are not grown now to any extent and many of them are entirely forgotten. The Mrs Thomas W. Lawson is the most talked-of new carnation because Mr Lawson paid \$30,000 for the stock of it. But there are other sorts equally as good, if not superior to it. The flowers are of a bright cerise-pink, very large, with fine, stout stems. General Maceo is a very dark brilliant scarlet overlaid with maroon, making it one of the richest flowers grown. It is said to be a very abundant bloomer. G. H. Crane is a model scarlet flower, with long, stiff stems, an early and continuous bloomer. Mrs Charles Duhme is a delicate pink, with very large flowers, while Gov Roosevelt is a dark crimson not yet introduced.

Among whites, Mrs George M. Bratt easily leads. The clear white flowers, heavily edged and striped with scarlet, are very full and so enormous that their weight bears down what would otherwise be a strong stem. The plant is of a rather dwarf habit. White Cloud is another good sort, pure white, of large size, excellent form and finish, good substance and very full. Psyche is a striped flower and a very free bloomer. Gold Nugget is the best colored yellow but not such a good bloomer as Mayor Pingree, which is very large, light yellow with red markings.

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to Actinidia polygama or the strangle vine. It is a very rapid, rank grower with a profusion of white flowers resembling the hawthorn. It has no tendrils and climbs by twining, and its strong, woody coils will soon kill a live tree. It is not adapted to walls, nor to verandas, as it makes too strong a growth.

The Rose is the Queen of all flowers, but it is a difficult matter to grow it in perfection, as it is the favorite victim of many insect and fungous pests. The black spot is one of the worst diseases and requires prompt treatment. Spray the plants thoroughly in spring before the buds start with bordeaux mixture. For the green fly use a spray of strong tobacco water. If you would have healthy bushes and fine flowers, spray the bushes several times each week at sunset with pure water.

Chrysanthemums for single bloom should be rooted in April or May and put on greenhouse benches in June. The young plants should be in rows 8 or 10 in apart with 14 in between the rows.

An Easy Way with gloxinias is to buy flowering bulbs in a dormant condition. They start into life easily and flower handsomely when well established.

The New Varieties of Cannas have become peerless bedding plants. There is no plant that can be set in the spring that will make more show than a canna. It needs but comparatively little care and attention, as the bulb retains moisture and strength for unfavorable periods.

Gladioli should be planted in an open, sunny situation and seem to prefer light, loamy soil. Set the bulbs about 4 in apart and 4 in deep. Plant at intervals from now to June 15 for a succession of bloom. Do not let them suffer for want of water.

For Summer Flowers there is nothing finer than Mrs Fisher carnation, as it blooms all summer as well as in winter. Young plants set out this month and pinched back once will give a wonderful amount of flowers all summer. It is considered by florists to be the best for summer blooming. All carnations will bloom more or less during the summer when not pinched back. Florists that grow them for winter blooming keep them pinched back every two weeks during summer and never let a flower bud appear. In this way they get fine, strong, stocky plants which are transplanted into the greenhouses, where they begin to grow and bloom all winter.

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