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THE HOME GARDEN

THE GARDEN CALENDAR FOR MAY

Prepare, by raking over, the surface for borders for sowing flowering annuals.
Plant Hardy Border Plants, Alpines, Climbers, and especially: Gladioli, Calliopsis, Pyrethrum (out back for late flowering), Delphiniums (out back for late flowering), Geraniums, Chrysanthemums, Hollyhocks, Clematis, Violes, Pansies, Dahlias, Calceolarias, Phloxes, Pentstemons, Cannas, Re-pot many Greenhouse and Window Plants, Potatoes, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Celery, Lettuce, Sow: Everything required for succession, Peas, Late, Windsor Beans, Runner Beans, Dwarf Beans, Cabbage for late use, Savoy Cabbage, Cucumber, Radish, Late Broccoli, Winter Kale, Vegetable Marrow, A little Celery, if not sown, Brussels Sprouts, Spinach, Turnip, Beet, Horn Carrot and main crop Carrots, Parsley, Colewort, Onion, Cos Lettuce, Cabbage, Lettuce, Cauliflower, Ridge Cucumber, Mustard and Cress, Parsnip, Phlox Drummond, Marigold, Aster, Ten-week Stock, Nicotiana, Calceolaria, Primula, Balsam, Cineraria, Cucumber, Ornamental Grasses, Chicory, Everlastings, Salicy, Grass Seed, Scorzenera.

BEAUTIFUL ANNUALS FOR BEDS AND BORDERS

RECENT years have seen a great advance in the popularity of annual flowers of all sorts, and this is largely due to the attention that they have received from the nurserymen or raisers; but they are still very far from having their merits properly recognized, excepting that queen of annuals, the Sweet Pea. That all are as beautiful and adaptable as the Sweet Pea cannot be truthfully urged, but it can be certainly said that a garden may be made extremely attractive for many months of the year by the use of annuals alone.

Nor is this wealth of floral beauty confined to the individual who possesses a greenhouse, for there is a wide choice of quite hardy annuals, while all of those which are called half-hardy or semi-tender can be raised in the open garden quite easily. It is true that it is necessary to wait for comparatively warm weather before sowing of the latter can be safely undertaken outdoors, and this delay in sowing means a delay in flowering, but not by any means a delay that will prevent the plants from blooming well the first season. With the fine and mild autumns which we now get so regularly, this very lateness of flowering is an advantage, for plants last much longer in the comparatively cool conditions of autumn, and one must not overlook the fact that one of the chief legitimate grievances against annuals is their rather brief flowering season.

The shortness of the flowering season is, however, grossly exaggerated in many cases, for there are, at least, some annuals which last in bloom as long as any flower found in the garden. If any one doubts the accuracy of this statement let him carefully raise and put out plants of the dwarf Alyssum called Thorburn's Bouquet, and they will be found to be covered with bloom from the time that they are about as large as a crown piece until a really severe frost puts an end to them. In sheltered places it is not unusual to find this plant in flower at Christmas. Cultural matters have far more to do with the longevity of annuals than many folks suppose, and the capabilities of a well tended bed or border will often surprise even the expert gardener.

How to Raise Half-Hardy Annuals

Shallow pans are best for raising these. They should be washed clean and dried before using, a dirty or wet pan often being responsible for disasters at pricking-out time. After arranging a layer of drainage material in the bottom of each pan, it should be filled to within an inch of the brim with light, sandy soil, loam and leaf-mould in equal parts, and half a part of coarse sand make a good mixture for raising seedlings. All the fine seeds should be mixed with silver sand before sowing, as this enables an equal distribution to be made; such seeds will need no further covering, but they may be pressed into the soil with the bottom of another pan. When large enough to handle, the seed should always be placed in position in the pans, giving each seed from half an inch to one inch of space, according to its size and also the size of its seed leaves. A layer of half sand and half soil should be scattered over all large seeds to a depth of not more than half an inch.

Sowing finished, cover each pan with a pane of glass to check evaporation, or stand the pans on top of each other, first, however, immersing the pans in a tub of tepid water. Stand them in a moist, warm corner of the greenhouse, and examine them daily after they have been sown a week to see if any of the seeds are showing signs of life. As soon as the first few green shoots break through the soil remove the upper pans from off those below; if glass is used, it should be removed almost as early, as it is not wise to weaken the young plants by keeping them too confined. Gradually accustom them to the full light and plenty of air, and before they commence to crowd each other, prick them off into other pans or boxes. A light soil should still be used, and a layer of sand on the surface of the soil given to the more tender sorts, such as the Ten-week Stock, Portulaca, Petunias and others which have a tendency to rot off at the

soil line. As a general rule, two inches between the young plants should be allowed at the pricking-off stage.

Shading must follow pricking off, and the syringe will be found useful in assisting re-establishment, but it must be used very gently and so that its spray falls in a fine shower. When the plants are able to hold up their heads without shading, gradually inure them to cooler quarters, and eventually place them in a cold frame, where they should receive more and more air until they are planted out at the end of May.

Twelve Beautiful Half-Hardy Annuals

Arctotis grandis, white with blue disc, 2 feet; Asters Ostreich Plume and Ray; Brachycome iberidifolia (Swan River daisy), various colors, 12 inches; Martynia fragrans, purple, as handsome as a Gloxinia, 18 inches; Nemesis Strumosa Suttonii, the large-flowered strain, various colors, 15 inches; Nicotiana Sanderae, various colors, 3 feet; Hibiscus Manihot, sulphur with a large eye, a beauty, 18 inches; Layia elegans, yellow and white, 12 inches; Portulaca Grandiflora Thellusonii, orange scarlet, a plant for a hot dry place where nothing else will grow; Phlox Drummondii, many colors, 9 inches to 18 inches; Salpiglossis Grandiflora, various colors, very attractive, 2 feet; and Venidium Colendulaceum, orange and yellow, one of the very best, 1 foot. The above only give a brief idea of the numbers of these lovely flowers.

HOW TO PLANT A STRAWBERRY BED

It is easy enough to grow good strawberries and plenty of them by taking care of the little details in the beginning. First of all the land must be well prepared. It must be plowed or dug deeply and thoroughly harrowed. Whatever fertilizers are given must be applied before plowing so that they will be well worked into the soil, and you can practically always gauge the amount of fertilizers given—the more manure the more berries. I have found that kainit will destroy the wire-worm, and combined with soluble phosphate rock it increases the yield of my beds more than any other combination of fertilizers. Planting is to be done as early as possible (usually in April), so the ground must be worked over the moment it is available; fall plowing is especially valuable therefore.

My method of procedure is this: After the land has been thoroughly harrowed, I level it, then roll it to firm it and give a smooth surface to the marker. The distance to make the rows apart depends entirely upon what system of culture is to be pursued. If the plants are to be grown in narrow or hedge rows, make the rows twenty-eight inches apart and set the plants eighteen inches apart in the row. The claim is made by this system all the plants obtain more air and light and do not crowd each other, and are easier to pick. If they are to be grown in wide, matted rows, make the rows thirty-six inches apart, setting the plants eight inches apart in the row. Advocates of this system say that if proper care is taken to distribute the runners or young plants in the row while hoeing instead of depending on the cultivator to push them into place the crop will be larger and the fruit of the best quality.

Having determined on the system to be pursued, mark the land accordingly and it is then ready to receive plants. These can be taken from the bed intended for the season's fruiting, cutting out only such plants as may have strayed out between the rows, or from sections which seem the most crowded; but it is much better to grow a row of plants especially for the purpose. Such a row should be permitted to produce runners freely, and all efforts in cultivation directed to the production of the greatest number of healthy plants. When ready to plant the bed, this row is dug up in its entirety, and all the plants thrown in baskets for conveyance to some suitable place for their preparation.

Having selected a suitable place to prepare the plants for setting, they are dumped out in a heap. Each plant is then selected from this heap and stripped of all the old runners and dead leaves, and the roots trimmed to about three inches long. All the old parent plants must be discarded. The plants are now ready for conveyance to the field, where they are dropped at holes provided for their reception.

These holes are best made with the spade, the blade being driven in on the line and the handle levered over to one side before withdrawing. This leaves the hole even on one side, while on the other the soil is banked from the pressure of the spade blade. To set each plant is taken in the hand, the roots

spread apart with the fingers, and the plant is then held against the flat side of the hole—the crown of the plant even with the surface—the soil is pushed from the banked side into the hole and against the roots and made firm.

Planting Imperfect Kinds

When the bed is being set with a variety having only pistillate flowers, every fourth or fifth row must be planted with a variety having perfect flowers in order that the flowers of the plants with pistillate flowers may be pollinated; otherwise there will be no crop.

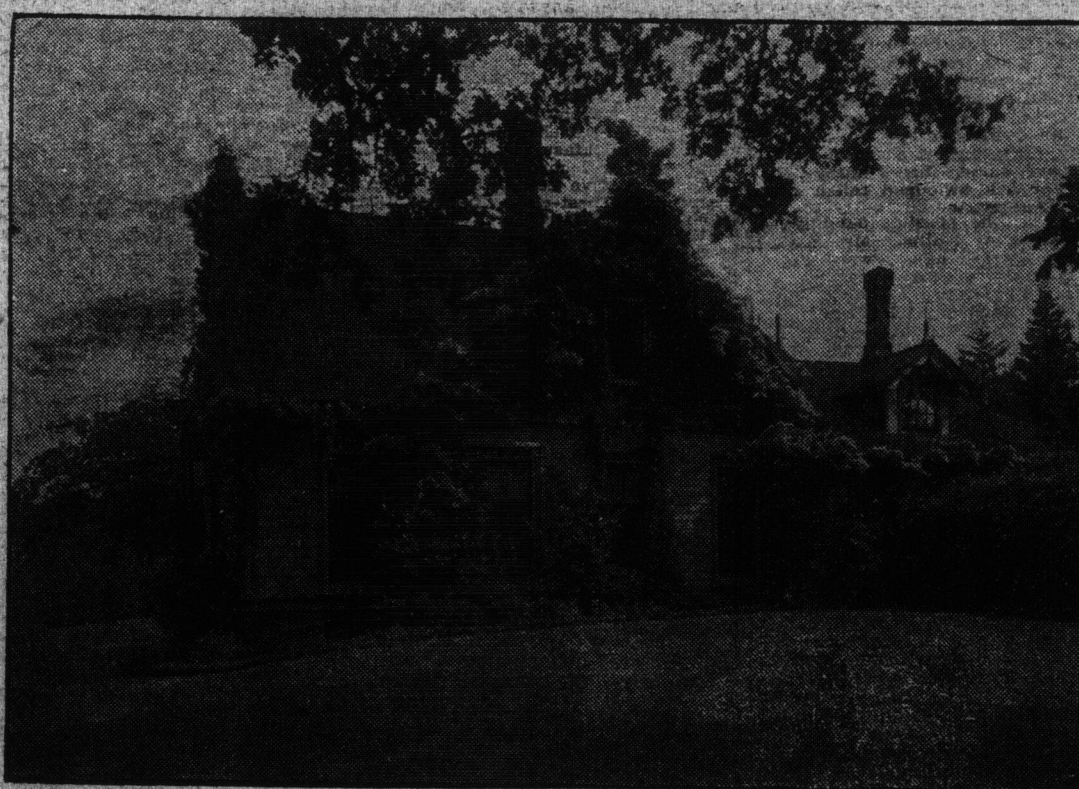
In about a week's time after planting, the bed is ready to receive its first hoeing. The soil should be thoroughly stirred around and between the plants and followed by the cultivator between the rows. The best cultivator for this purpose is a diamond toothed one, the outer teeth being kept sharp on their outer edges. The cultivator should be held first on one side and, turning, on the other side of the row, close to the plants.

Train the runners over every gap made through the destruction or dying out of the plants originally set, so that there may be no blanks.—A. Bonar Balfour.

FALL PRUNING VS. SPRING PRUNING

Occasionally some of the fruit-growers recommend that the field of bush fruits be cleaned up and pruned in the fall, so that the work will be out of the way for spring. I don't believe this is a good plan, and my experience has been that fall pruning is not advisable, especially in the case of raspberries.

During the summer the laterals of the raspberry plants have made vigorous growth, and many of these have taken root late in the season; when winter comes on, therefore, this long lateral will be fastened at both ends—



Creepers Enhance the Beauty of a Home

one end to the strong cane of the plant, the other rooted in the soil. With such an anchorage as this, of course the laterals are not whipped about by the winds of the winter, as would be the case if they had been pruned back.

I believe, too, that fall-pruning of these laterals makes the plant more subject to winter injury. This has been my experience, at least, for I have always found that where I delay the pruning of the raspberry until spring they come through the winter in better shape than when they are pruned in autumn.

Some grape-growers prune their vineyards in autumn, and I believe this is another mistake. I don't believe the vines pass the winter as well as where they are left unpruned until the next spring.

While I am on the subject, I may go a little further and say I don't believe in doing any kind of pruning in autumn, for this work can be better done next spring, just before growth starts. Where trees are pruned now, the wound will dry and will not heal as readily as it would if the sap were running and the trees were making new wood. It very often happens that the limb will die back from the cut, where it would have healed over if the pruning had been done in the spring.

The only argument advanced for fall-pruning is that the growers have more time then. This is true. But it doesn't seem to be a wise plan to save time at the expense of our fruit crops. How is it with other growers? I have given only my experience, and would like to know if I am wrong in this regard.—The Western Fruit Grower.

THE PROBLEM OF SELLING FRUIT

Fruit growing would be a profitable business were it not for the unknown quantity of the market. I am interested mostly in the growing of apples, and I think it is about as easy to market winter apples as any other kind

of fruit, because they do not have to be hurried onto the market without regard to the price that the apples will bring. But my experience has shown me that we are not able to market our fruit to advantage. We get little for it, and the consumers pay a high price for it. I will confess that I do not know the way out of the difficulty, and for that reason I shall not hesitate to let go of the business when I can find a man that is willing to buy me out.

The problem of selling fruit is a large one, and is one that needs to be studied by all the people that are engaged in producing it. I think that if the growers of each kind of fruit could get together in some way it might result in progress being made. It is not, however, easy to get farmers or even apple growers to come together in large numbers. I do not know that it would be profitable even if large numbers of them could be brought together. Little is accomplished at such times.

The matter needs to be studied out carefully by a few men who have the time and the money with which to make investigations and study conditions. Possibly the time will come when one of the experiment stations will take up the work of studying and investigating the methods employed and possibly in the marketing of apples.—Ex.

IMPORTANT WORK IN MAY

The Time When Everything Needs to Be Done at Once

If frost threatens, cover tender vegetables and flowers with empty dry goods boxes, peach baskets, bits of cloth, old carpets or even newspapers. Rake the litter back upon the strawberry patch if the plants are in blossom. Spray plants with cold water from the hose at dusk. Put board screens or miniature fences on the north and east sides of newly transplanted vegetables. Early next morning see if anything important is touched by frost. If so, cover it from the sun and let it thaw out as slowly as possible.

Before Danger of Frost Is Past

Sow seeds of tender vegetables if soil is warm and mellow. The important ones are beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplants, pepper, pumpkin, and squash. None of these young plants can stand even a light frost.

Plan and plant veranda boxes.

First thinning and transplanting of vegetables and flowers.

Buy the bedding plants you want from your local florist.

After the Danger of Frost is Past

Transplant tender vegetables and flowers from hotbed to garden.

Set out bedding plants.

Finish second thinning of everything in the garden. Transplant celery the second time.

Why not can some asparagus?

Things to Watch for

First signs of cabbage and cauliflower insects; also currant worms.

The moment when the petals fall in the orchard. Then you want to spray.

Delightful Jobs

Divide perennials and share the increase with your neighbors.

Start a wild garden, but don't take things without asking permission and don't dig up rare wildflowers and orchids.

Routine Work

Spray fruit trees and berry bushes with a combination of Paris green, or some other arsenical compound, and Bordeaux mixture.

Put whale-oil soap on rose bushes.

Dust cabbage leaves at nightfall with pyrethrum powder.

Spray cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts with the resin-lime mixture.

Make paths and borders neat.

Provide poles for bean.

Keep ahead of weeds.

Dig dandelions out of the lawn.

Make veranda boxes.

Cultivate strawberries for the last time and mulch them just before they bloom.

Watch for Insect Pests

The blooming of the apples and pears warns us to get ready to spray with an arsenical poison for the codling moth or apple worm, shortly after the blossoms drop. It must be done before the green sepals beneath the white petals have closed up and the young

fruit bent over, because the poison must fall into the calyx cup in order to be effective. Fear psyllas and plant lice, which at times are exceedingly destructive, appear with the unfolding of the leaves, and when excessively abundant must be held in check by thorough spraying with a whale-oil soap solution, one pound dissolved in five to seven gallons of water, or a kerosene emulsion, standard formula, diluted to about nine parts of water.

The best method of checking white grubs and cut worms which eat the roots of recently set plants, is to dig out and kill the former, and attract the others to poisoned baits such as fresh clover or lettuce dipped in strong Paris green water.

One of the best poisons for general use is the arsenate of lead. This should always be used in the paste form and can be purchased in pound cans. Its particular value consists of its harmlessness to vegetation and superior adhesive properties. It can be applied in almost any quantity without injury to tender foliage. The standard kerosene emulsion may be prepared by dissolving half a pound of soap in one gallon of water, adding two gallons of kerosene and then churning vigorously or passing through a pump till a white, milk-like emulsion is formed, which mixes readily with water, dilute as needed.

Hardy Annuals: Their Treatment.—Continue to prick off annuals raised in frames into small pots, and harden such as are established preparatory to their turning out into the open ground. Those which have been potted some time should have another shift, rather than allow them to become stunted in their pots. Another sowing of annuals may now be made either in an open border for transplanting, or on small squares of turf, grassy side downwards. When the plants are up, the pieces of turf with the plants may be removed to their final quarters. As the planting season approaches, have everything ready by hardening the plants, that they may experience no check by removal, and turning over and well working the soil to get it into a proper state for planting. Lupines, Flos Adonis, lychnis, mignonette, and many others, may still be sown in beds or patches where they are to flower, watering them after sowing and in dry weather.

Perennials: Their Propagation.—Perennials may now be increased by cuttings of the young flower stalks; double scarlet lychnis will grow freely so propagated. Divide the young flower stalks into lengths, each having three or four joints, and plant them in a shady border of rich light earth about four inches asunder, two joints of the cuttings being in the ground; press the earth round the stem, and water them moderately, covering them with hand glasses, and shading from the midday sun.

All the fibrous-rooted plants may be increased by this method, as well as by separating the roots, the only methods by which the properties of the double-flowering species can be propagated.

Seedling Perennials and Biennials.—All seedling perennials and biennials should now be planted out if sufficiently advanced; the others pricked out in nursery beds. Dig up a piece of clean ground for this purpose, and divide it into beds 3-12 feet broad; rake level for this purpose, and divide out by line six inches apart each way. Seeds of gillyflowers, wallflowers, sweetwilliams, Canterbury bells, and most other sorts, may still be sown in beds of mellow-ground not too much exposed to the sun.

Annuals, etc., for Succession.—Plant out in rich soil a good supply of stocks and asters for the autumn; and sow a succession of annuals for making up any vacancies which may occur, and likewise another sowing of mignonette in pots for rooms or for filling window boxes.

Bedding Out Plants.—As the soil and weather will now be in a fit state to commence bedding out, a start should be made with the half-hardy plants first; as antirrhinums, pentstemons, etc., which may be followed by calceolarias and verbenas; reserving heliotropes and the more tender kinds of geraniums for the latest planting.

Plants Necessary for Bedding Out.—Where bedding out is practiced, this is a busy month. Let all be done according to a well-digested plan, in which the height and distance, as well as the color of every plant and every bed, are previously determined; for the next few weeks will be devoted to filling up the flower garden beds and clumps intended for the summer and autumn display. Every exertion should be made to get the planting out completed with all possible despatch; and, premising the plants intended for each bed have been previously determined and hardened off, no great difficulty will now be met with in filling them up. If an early display is wanted, they must be planted rather thicker, and need not be stopped; if not before a later period in the summer, plant be pinched off as they appear, till the plants be pinched off as they appear, till the plants have filled the beds.