



A picturesque old English garden house, which is an example of excellence in garden architecture. One merit is that such a house doesn't take long to build.

Two Lessons in Landscape Gardening

Garden Houses and Stepping Stones that have Something in Common and Show Distinct Garden Features which may be Created now at Small Cost

By E. T. COOK

THE sunshine of the past days, bringing with it the breath of spring and an incentive to go outdoors and think out plans to realize at the earliest possible moment, has suggested certain schemes for adding to the enjoyment of an estate, whether newly-made, created or in process of development. In the leading illustration is seen a garden house of simple, yet beautiful design, set in a little garden surrounded with rough stone walls, such as may be constructed in most places from material on the spot. The "garden house" is not a modern thought, and in its simplest form is the "summer house," or a retreat for summer days, where sunny hours may be idly spent in the peace and restfulness that come from the stress of modern life. Sometimes it is called a "tea-house," or the place for the afternoon cup that "cheers," but wherever it is to be built a place must be chosen amid surroundings that will bring a sense of repose and communion with the trees and flowers around. A house substantially though simply built, such as that depicted, is a necessary fitting in with a home constructed on solid principles, with nothing to suggest the rustic work abominations that disfigure many a fair pleasure. Wandering in some beautiful garden, perhaps filled with the joy of tree, shrub, and flower, it is something in the nature of a shock to discover a trumpery wooden garden "house," with neither the merit of good material nor of design to warrant its presence in a well-ordered estate. The illustration is sufficiently clear, I hope, to show those who would wish to construct something similar that there is no intricacy of detail, the design being perfect in its noble simplicity, and expensive angles and fittings have been studiously avoided. It is shown when just completed, but any sense of crudity or bareness will be in time effaced by vines, roses at the back of the pillars, and here and there groups of some flower, of which the tall Larkspur (Delphinium), Peony, and herbaceous phlox are the most important in relation to the more substantial designs. Its size may be spacious or restricted, according to circumstances, and the low stone walls offer a home for many flowers that love to send their roots into the chinks, with at the foot the cool leaf colouring of the German or Flag Iris. Until one enters into the very spirit of gardening, thinking out as the true artist does, what is worthy of his brush, garden houses in a beautiful setting will never grace the surroundings of the home. Someone will say, "I leave that to the landscape artist." That is not the same as the forming of an estate or giving touches of beauty to it oneself.

It occasionally happens we have a simple opening on the fringe of an estate and wending through roughly-kept grass to preserve the true "wildness" of this meeting of garden and woodland. Large, rough, flat stones may have been laid without any set regularity as a "walk" in damp weather. We may have quaint turns, nothing clever, perhaps, but just an artlessness that means so much to the picture.

The Charm of the Sweet Pea

THE Sweet Pea flower, "tip-toe for a flight," is an example of the wonderful results that come from cross-breeding or selecting certain parents to raise up a new and beautiful race. I do not think

the world realizes the debt of gratitude it owes to the men—silent workers in the field of horticulture—who have given us the lovely races of flowers we see around us—Roses, Gladioli, Sweet Peas, Delphiniums, Peonies, Water-lilies and a host of others raised by men of all nations—Lemoine, Paul, Bennett, Benary, Dickson, and Lord Penzance, to name a few in a lordly throng. And we hope the day is not far distant when Canada will have taken its place among the countries of the world that have contributed to its sweetness; perhaps there is some hybridist at work already, keeping secret the crosses which he is anxious to see in flower, and bring something



A Flower of the Moment—the Sweet Pea.



A Flower Jewel—Love-in-a-Mist.

florally new into the world for his own satisfaction and to the honour of the Dominion.

The Sweet Pea has come to its present wonderful perfection in all ways by simply crossing and selecting, and the work was begun by one Henry Eckford, whose name is known throughout the world. Others have entered into the arena, but among the most beautiful of all Sweet Peas are still those that were born in the famous Eckford Sweet Pea grounds in Wem, Shropshire, England. This brief allusion to the beginnings of our fairy flower should interest everyone who has a real love for the garden, and recall the beautiful work that was begun by the pioneers in the art of hybridization and pursued ardently in the present day.

The Sweet Pea in Canada.

IT has been said that the Sweet Pea is not so adapted to this land of sunshine as many other annuals, but as so much that is false has been written of plants here, some averring this will not do, others that, it is difficult to be patient with remarks bred of absolute ignorance. The very nature of the plant, its climbing growth, and wealth of flowers, borne continuously or should be, from summer to fall, suggests that certain marked conditions of culture are necessary to achieve success. It is useless to sow the seed as one would in the land of Ireland, where the climate is moist and everything conducive to healthy development. Those who have hitherto failed or not succeeded satisfactorily should pursue a more considerate course. The writer has found that a rich soil or, say, a good, well-dug bit of ground in partial shade, yet not over-run with tree roots, is the best. First of all, order the seed at once, and use the hot-bed, which was described recently, for giving germinating power. Sow two seeds in a small, three-inch pot, which should be filled with some of the soil of the garden, and in the bottom of each put one small piece of broken pot, called a "crook." The seedlings will soon appear and keep very sturdy by exposing them as much as possible to the air. Then, when all fear of frost is over and the garden soil is in condition, plant out, without needlessly breaking the ball, into a six-inch-deep trench, in the bottom of which has been placed a good layer of manure. The object of this is to provide in summer, when drought is prolonged and artificial waterings are of little avail, something for the roots to enter to keep them fresh and strong.

Seed may be sown direct to the open and as early as possible before the trying heat of summer begins. Well enrich the soil, sow the seed in trenches prepared in the same way as for the pot plants, and cover it over with about an inch of soil. When growth begins, fill in, and this will ensure strong growth, which alone will resist drought. The trials that beset Sweet Peas are the long, dry summer, which may be minimized by sowing in a place over-shadowed at some part of the day, and carelessness in not removing spent flowers. It is impossible in any climate for a plant of the nature of the Sweet Pea to bear the double burden of flower and seed production; it most collapse.

Sweet Peas in Colour Classification.

THERE is no desire to make a long list of varieties. He who would grow a collection should know everything about the flower, so the choice is restricted to the following: **White**—Dorothy Eckford, White Spencer, Nora Unwin, White Wonder, Shaasta. **Lavender**—a lovely colour in Sweet Peas—Lady Grisell Hamilton (I think my favourite), Florence Nightingale, Countess of Radnor. **Pink and Rose**—these shades are delightful, clear and useful in all forms of dainty decorations—John Ingman, Countess Spencer, Arthur Unwin, Beatrice Spencer, Dainty, Apple Blossom, Gladys Unwin, Queen of Spain. **Red or Scarlet and Crimson**—King Edward, Queen Alexandra, Chrissie Unwin, Coccinea, which is usually regarded as a cerise shade. **Salmon and Orange Shades**—St. George, Bolton Pink, Earl Spencer, Evelyn Byatt, George Herbert, Henry Eckford. **Purple and Bluish Shades**—Frank Dolby, Countess of Cadogan, Tennant Spencer, Captain of the Blues, Shapzada, Black Knight, Lord Nelson, Navy Blue, Tom Bolton. **Primrose and Buff**—Dora Breadmore, Mrs. Breadmore, Mrs. Collier.

There are other ways of growing Sweet Peas than in the conventional row. The flower may be used to form a dividing line between some portion of the garden and a row on either side of the vegetable garden walk is welcome for the beauty it introduces and the gatherings that may be had for the home or personal adornment.

Flowers' Mysterious Perfume

ONE of the most mysterious elements of flowers is the perfume, the essential action of which in plant life cannot be demonstrated by the wisest of our scientific men. Gas can be weighed, but not scent. The smallest known insect that lives in the heart of a rose can be caught by a microscope lens and made to give up the secret of its organization, but what it is that the warm summer brings us from the wild flowers of the hillsides, or waits to us from the choice exotics of the hot-house, no man has been able to determine. So fine, so subtle, so imponderable, it eludes weights and measure.

F. W. BURBIDGE.