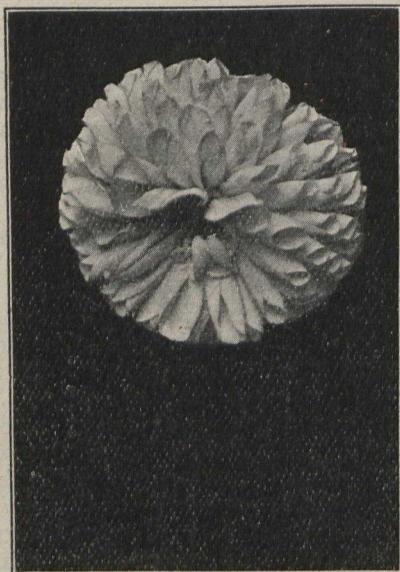


treat as if grown from tubers. They will bloom the first season. The tubers of these plants will do better the following year. In this way new varieties are originated.



4. Mrs. Roosevelt—A Sport

I have stated that flowers will sport on the same bush. As an example I give two illustrations, No. 3 and No. 4. These are "Mrs. Roosevelt," both grown on the same bush, from the same tuber, but from different branches. No. 3 is the true type, No. 4 the sport. It is believed that this variety of dahlia is an improvement over "Grand Duke Alexis" and was originated from that plant. If so, then this sport partly answers the query: "Do dahlias revert?" Anyone familiar with "Grand Duke Alexis," will notice in this sport of "Mrs. Roosevelt" the resemblance to its progenitor. It was certainly the most beautiful flower from this bush during the whole season. Its color was a delicate rose pink, with a rich orange centre, over which a few petals curled gracefully. It was much admired by all who beheld it.

A fine specimen of "Clifford W. Bruton" is represented by illustration No. 5. It is a large yellow, decorative dahlia, that measured five and six-eighths inches. The bush it grew upon is nearly six feet tall, and spreads over an area of nearly seven feet. This flower was picked without any special selection.

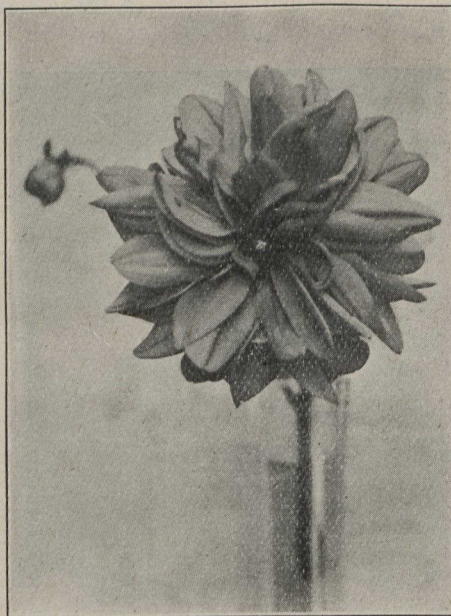
#### PROPAGATING FROM SLIPS

Among professionals the propagation of dahlias from slips is quite common. Slips are made from early shoots. These should be of the very thinnest, and taken from tubers that have been started in January, either in the hot-house, or in the cellar, if there is sufficient light. When the third set of leaves have formed, cut the shoots from the tubers and place in three-inch pots containing sandy loam, being very

careful to label slips as you make them. In about three weeks they will take root. Do not be discouraged if these slips wilt at first. I have had them apparently die, and finally send up a splendid shoot. Remove to hot-bed as soon as weather will permit, and transplant in garden, only after carefully hardening out, as soon as all danger of frost has passed, say about the middle of May. They will bloom as if grown from tubers.

#### FEEDING

Your dahlia bed should always be fertilized in the fall. After the tubers have been dug, work in large quantities of well-rotted cow manure, digging the bed over several times before the earth has frozen. Early in the growing season a top dressing of pure bone meal four parts, to nitrate of soda one part, gives splendid results, but



5. Clifford W. Bruton

Deep yellow, decorative. Size, 5½ inches.

do not apply this until buds have begun to form. If, after a good bloom, the flowers appear to degenerate in size and quality, mulch broadcast with the bone meal and nitrate of soda composition, to promote a better bloom. Like the peony, the dahlia is a great feeder, but remember that too much feeding before the buds begin to form promotes the growth of the bush at the expense of the bloom.

Amateurs should aim to have flower beds of a pleasing but simple shape, not elaborate in design.

The value of rural improvement is recognized by all men who observe. It has an effect on the home and on the travelling public. It increases the value of the farms that are adjacent to or that form part of the improvement.

### Gaillardia—Blanket Flower

The gaillardias are a genus of great importance in the flower garden, including, as they do, some of the showiest flowers, valuable for their long duration on the plants and as cut flowers. Variety *aristata* and several others are the types, all natives of North America, from which have been raised a number of beautiful hybrids, producing flowers from two to four inches in diameter. Variety *grandiflora* is probably the best and should be found in every collection.

If the seeds are sown in February, the plants raised will bloom as well as wintered-over plants. They may also be raised from cuttings in the fall. For effect, plant in a bold clump by themselves.

### Kniphofia—Flame Flower

Roderick Cameron, Niagara Falls, Ont.

Red-Hot Poker or Torch Lily are other names for this flower. They are natives of South Africa. They belong to the lily family, of which there are about a dozen varieties in cultivation. All bear a strong resemblance to each other. The variety "Pfritzerie" is probably the best on account of its continual blooming habit and bright flame color. It blooms during August, September, and October. The photograph reproduced here is of this variety. I have counted as many as thirty-five spikes on one of these plants at a time. The plants are smaller than the others that I am acquainted with and the heads are shorter. One of the tallest is "Noble's." It is truly a noble plant, well worthy of the name.

They all like a deep, damp, porous



Kniphofia Aloidess

soil. At Niagara Falls they are hardy, but I would advise gardeners in other sections to take up the roots, store in boxes, and place in a cool cellar. They may be planted outside in the spring. Variety "Maria" is the hardiest of this class and should prove so in many places in Ontario.