

About the Farm

(Conducted by Allan Campbell.)

THE VALUE OF THE FLOWER GARDEN

The flower garden has its place on the farm as well as the vegetable garden. We cannot live in too crude a state and expect the best results. Flowers give a softening influence to the harshness that may surround our toils and serve as a great antidote to mental fatigue. The movement in favor of rotations and summer fallows is saving our land from becoming run down or otherwise "jaded," and if the land needs this attention, surely the mind that governs the farm needs the most favorable conditions as well. We, of the human family, are largely affected by the influence of environment, and if we are forced to continually look upon disorder, untidiness and on un-beautiful things in general, we will, by means of subconscious development, tune ourselves up to the same pitch. The farmer may be out all day among the beauties of nature which are in evidence on his farm, but it is when the mind is tired in sympathy with the body after a long day's toil that we look for mental refreshment and are less able to throw off the depression brought on by dismal surroundings. While affected by these surroundings and being perhaps in poor humor, we may lay the blame too much on the things that have gone wrong during the day and not count the influence that is acting upon us in the shape of unharmonious surroundings. Music (of the right sort) and flowers are natural sedatives.

The influence of the flower garden may be spread over a large area by means of cut blooms which find a place in the house. A bouquet of choice flowers taken to a neighbor's house is an act of friendship that is always appreciated. The cost of the seed and the labor involved in the raising of a flower garden is well covered by the results obtained.

There are a great number of varieties

of flowers that are successful in this country and that would fill a good deal of space to enumerate them all. However, it will be as well to give the names of a few of the most desirable of them.

The Iris is a hardy perennial and produces a bloom early in the season of a beautiful orchid-like appearance. There are a good many different kinds of Irises; the colors are delicate, and each variety shows a bloom containing many tints, such as mauve, purple, yellow, white, etc. Their roots increase comparatively rapidly and this gives one a chance to establish new plantations of them in different parts of the garden. They need no winter protection. They make good showing as cut flowers in vases, etc.

Before the advent of the Iris, Tulips make pleasant harbingers of spring. They are annuals and may be bedded in

the fall and will brighten up the home grounds before the general run of flowers are available. They are well adapted to use as cut flowers and will keep about a week in water.

A good continuous rotation of bloom may be obtained by the use of Tulips, Irises and Peonies. The latter have a most magnificent bloom. Peonies are hardy, herbaceous Perennials, and are a great acquisition to the garden and are becoming increasingly popular. They should be planted about the beginning of September so that they may make some root growth before winter. This gives them a better chance in the spring. They need plenty of sunlight, and though they succeed in most soils, the best kind of soil for them is a rich, moist, but well-drained soil. They require a good allowance of room between each plant, say, three feet each way. For winter protection, a coating of about four inches of manure is advised, and this can be worked into the soil in the spring. Peonies are at their best toward the end of June. Some of the blooms are

about four inches across, and at a distance have the appearance of huge roses. There are some very delicate shades of pink and white which will always draw admiring attention.

Sweet peas are general favorites, and by a careful system of selection have been evolved the gorgeous blooms of the present day in place of the puny Sweet Pea of former years. By means of stakes and strings they may be made to form a beautiful hedge of various colors. One of their good points is that they have an exceedingly good supply of bloom; in fact, it is advisable to keep the flowers picked in order to keep the plants productive. The flowers make excellent bouquets and much pleasure may be obtained from them by making up artistic blendings of the various shades for the flower vases in the home. Sweet Peas will make a good fourth relay in the above outlined rotation of bloom and will carry on the work of bloom production until the first killing frost occurs.

Insects and Insecticides

The insect trouble is ever before us and each season we are compelled to adopt the necessary measures for their control. On the same principle as "Money saved is money earned," the knowledge of controlling insects is a valuable adjunct to the gardener, as it will enable him to obtain a greater percentage of profit from the result of his labors through the saving of his crops.

Injurious insects may be divided into two groups, viz., biting insects and sucking insects. Among the former are caterpillars, cutworms, etc., while the latter group includes the aphids. The biting insects may be controlled by such poisons as Paris green, while the sucking insects require contact insecticides, such as Kerosene Emulsion, and preparations containing tobacco.

There are some insects that are not injurious as far as the gardeners' interests are concerned, and among them is the Lady Bird beetle.



The Breakfast hour.

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