

HOW TO GROW ASTERS AND PHLOX.

cuttings have to be kept for a long time, oiled paper should be used for an outside wrap to keep the parcel damp.

Appended is a few of the shrubs that may be grown from cuttings: any plant can be propagated by layering:—*Althea*, *Cytisus*, *Carolina Allspice*,

Deutzia, *Honeysuckle*, *Hydrangea paniculata*, *Japan Rose*, *Siberian Pea tree*, *Smoke tree*, *Spiræa* (a large class of plants), *Weigelia*, etc., will all succeed without much difficulty.

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MANY owners of small gardens are deterred from growing as freely as they would like, such very desirable flowers as *Asters* and *Phlox Drummondii*, from the mistaken idea that to be successful with them they must buy plants ready to set out or grow them in a hot-bed. If plants are bought the expense is quite a serious item if many are wanted, while the care of a hot-bed I have found in my experience to be one of the most troublesome things connected with a garden, only those who can give their whole attention to it can hope to succeed. The weather is so fickle in the spring that only constant watchfulness will prevent disaster; the neglect of an hour may result from a sudden change of temperature in the freezing or burning up of your plants. I find it quite satisfactory with all such plants to sow the seed in the open air as early in the spring as the ground can be got into a seedable condition, in a warm sheltered spot, and transplanted when large enough. The best sort for a seed-bed is a good heavy loam, stiff enough not to fall away from the roots when you are transplanting, as a sandy soil is apt to do. Rake the bed with a sharp steel rake till the soil is as fine as you can make it. Mark furrows 15 inches apart and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep, drop the seed 2 to 3 in. apart, cover and firm the earth well over the row. A common hoe is a very convenient tool for that purpose, a good pat with the back of it brings the earth into close contact with the seed, which is a

very important element of success in the planting of all small seeds. As soon as your plants are—for *asters* 3 to 4 in., and for *phlox* 5 to 6 in. high, they are ready for transplanting, which is best done on a cloudy day after rain. Remove with a garden trowel two out of every three plants in the row to wherever wanted; those that are left are at a suitable distance apart for flowering, and make a good reserve for cut flowers, when you can cut freely without robbing your border, and also serve if you grow named varieties to keep the names of each sort without labeling the plants in the border.

Last season plants of *Phlox Drummondii* grown in this way from seed sown May 4th, came into flower on July 12th, and remained in bloom till November. *Asters* sown April 21st, came into flower August 2nd, were at their best from August 15th to September 5th, and were all over when frost came. To have the best flowers, which are always the first to open, in bloom at exhibition time, it would be well to make a second sowing two or three weeks later.

There may be some kinds of *asters* that require a longer season to reach maturity than is available planting in this way, but I have found it a perfect success with the following varieties:—*Comet*, *Victoria*, *Dwarf*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Queen of the Market*, *Goliath*, *Emperor*, *Rose*, *Globe*, *Truffants*, *Peony*, *Perfection*, *Quilled German*, *Prince of Wales*, *Japanese Giant*, etc.

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