

as an insect remedy than is the liquid method of applying arsenites.

The effort of the orchardist may be best expended in perfecting the preparation and application of the standard Bordeaux mixture combined with arsenites.

The Farmer's Flower Garden.

One frequently sees, both in city and country, crude flower-beds, made by raising mounds of soil a few feet from the house, and filled with any odds and ends of plants which may have happened to be in the house all winter, with the addition, perhaps, of a few others bought on the market in spring. Sometimes such beds produce quite a little bloom during the summer months, but situated, as they often are, in a dooryard with little or no attempt at improving the appearance of it, they lack attractiveness when compared with flower-beds in or beside a well-kept lawn, where, with the trees and shrubs, they form part of the home-like picture which we should like every farmer who reads these articles, to feel he can make about his own home.

There is no class of flowers more suited to country gardens than the hardy herbaceous perennials, for once these are established they will remain for many years, and are truly a perennial source of pleasure to even those who are not enthusiastic about flowers. If a farmer were to depend on annuals for his flowers every year, he might some years neglect sowing the seed, and thus be without a good supply, whereas if there is a border well stocked with perennials he is certain to have flowers. Bulbs, also, especially tulips and narcissus, should be planted, as these likewise will remain for a long time. In our last article it was suggested that a border about six feet wide be left between the hedge and the lawn. It is a border such as this which should furnish bloom from early in the spring to late in the autumn. As many perennials do not need to be moved for a long time, it is important in preparing a border to have soil which will furnish abundant plant food to them, as sometimes when plants increase in size and the border is filled with them, it is difficult to dig in manure. There should be good, rich, loamy soil, which will not bake, to the depth of twelve inches or more in the border, and a heavy dressing of well-rotted manure turned under to add still more fertility to it. The surface soil should be thoroughly broken up and levelled with the rake, but the soil should not be raised much above the level of the lawn. A great mistake is often made in raising beds high, as they dry out much easier in summer than if left but little above the surrounding level. As the whole border should be occupied with flowers, and as it may take several years to get enough perennials to fill it, some plan must be adopted to get bloom in the meantime. We know of no other flower which will make so gorgeous a show for as little outlay as the annual poppies, the Shirley varieties being among the best of them. The seed of these may be sown thinly all over the border in early spring, and for about six weeks of the summer there will be a brilliant show. The annual poppies re-seed themselves, and once they go to seed in the border a supply of them is assured from year to year. The seed of Iceland and Oriental perennial poppies may also be sown in the same way as the annual ones. The Iceland poppies will bloom in the autumn if seed is sown early in the spring, but the Oriental poppies do not bloom until the second season. Once the latter are thoroughly established they will furnish abundant bloom during the month of May. While the poppies multiply rapidly, and if left to themselves would occupy most of the border, they may be treated as weeds when not wanted, and are very easy to kill.

Some other good hardy annuals, the seed of which could be sown the first year, and every year for that matter, are Phlox Drummondii, Verbenas, Candytuft and Zinnias, all of which are very effective. Once, however, there is a border to put things into, it will not take long to get a good collection of perennials if we so desire. Friends will be only too glad to give away pieces from large clumps, and there are few but could afford to buy some plants each year. There are quite a number of good perennials which can be grown readily from seed, among which are the Aquilegias or Columbines, the Larkspurs, Campanulas, Coreopsis, Gaillardia, Forget-me-not and Hollyhocks. Foxgloves and Canterbury Bells are also hardy biennials, which are raised readily from seed. Among the most desirable perennials are the Irises, or Flags, of which there is a very large number of varieties, of many shades of color. If the proper varieties are obtained, beginning with the Orris Root (Iris florentina), and ending with the Japanese Iris, there will be bloom for more than six weeks. The hardy perennial Phlox can also be obtained in great variety, and these will furnish bloom in mid and late summer. Some of the lilies should be planted, as these have a beauty all their own. Of these, *Lilium speciosum* should not be omitted, as it furnishes bloom during the month of September, when many other flowers are past. The Bleeding Heart, though an old-fashioned perennial, is very desirable. There are some very fine hardy herbaceous Spiræas, some of the finest being *Spiræa Aruncus* or Goat's Beard, *Spiræa Ulmaria* or Meadow Sweet, and *Spiræa Venusta*. Pæonies may now be had in great variety, and should not be omitted from the farmer's garden. We should, however, advise planting them in a clump by themselves, as owing to their great spread of foliage they may crowd out other kinds. A place should be found for the Rudbeckia Golden Glow, as it is such a showy plant, but as it spreads so rapidly it is best planted by itself, and looks well in a corner where it is allowed to form a large clump.

In planting perennials, the height to which each grows should be learned, if possible, and the taller ones put in the back of the border, so that they will not hide the lower growing varieties, and also because the taller look best at the back. Full information regarding the best perennials can be obtained through the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. Somewhere near the front of the house there should be a good-sized flower-bed, the soil of which may be prepared the same as for the border. There is nothing more satisfactory for a bed of this kind than geraniums, a bed all of a crimson or scarlet variety being the most effective. Fine strong plants can usually be obtained at very reasonable prices in most of the market towns.



One of the most graceful perennials is the Goat's-beard (*Spiræa aruncus*), with creamy white flowers.

Bulbs are very satisfactory for the farmer's garden—tulips, narcissus and hyacinths being the most suitable. Before the geraniums are set out in the spring the bed may be occupied with tulips, which will make a fine show during the early part of May, and may be dug up when it is time to plant the geraniums, and ripened off gradually, after which they may be stored in a dry place until September, when the best bulbs should again be planted. It is, however, in the border between the clumps of perennials that bulbs give the greatest satisfaction with the least trouble. Here hardy narcissus may be left for a number of years, and will give an increasing number of flowers each year, and, as they begin blooming in April, will give flowers when they are more appreciated than later on when so many kinds are



The Larkspur is one of the most effective perennials, and once established, will succeed well for many years. The Larkspurs vary in color from white to the deepest blue.

in bloom. Tulips may also be left for a number of years in the same place, if they are in well-drained soil, but will need lifting from time to time if they multiply too fast, the large bulbs being re-planted and given more room, and the small ones planted in a less prominent place and left until they reach blooming size. Hyacinths do not always give such good satisfaction outside as tulips and narcissus, but are very desirable, as they are so beautiful and have such a delightful perfume.

Bulbs should be planted in September or early in October to get the best results. The price of them is so reasonable, when one takes into consideration how much they brighten up the lawn and border in spring, that no place should be without them.

Of annual climbing plants with attractive flowers, two of the most satisfactory are sweet peas and nasturtiums, and a few cents' worth will give an abundance of bloom from July until frost. To have the greatest success with sweet peas, the seed should be sown in rich soil as soon as it is dry enough in the spring to work, the reason being that sweet peas require an abundance of moisture, and if sown early the roots have time to get well down where moisture is always plentiful before the hot weather comes. Sweet peas also do best in full sunshine. The climbing nasturtiums will be found more satisfactory than the dwarf varieties. Unlike sweet peas, nasturtiums bloom best in rather poor soil, and seed should not be planted until danger of frost is almost past, as the nasturtium is a tender plant.

It is easy to grow the flowers above mentioned, and they can be obtained with such a small outlay that it must be only lack of desire and supposed lack of time which are the reasons for so few flowers being grown around the farm home. For the sake of our families, and for the good influence which it is sure eventually to bear on our own lives, let us force the desire upon ourselves and begin this spring to make our country homes more attractive, and if we make ourselves desire to do the work it will be done and we shall never regret it.

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Planting the Young Orchard.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In selecting nursery stock, always purchase young, thrifty trees—in apple, pear and plum, two-year-old trees from the bud; peach, one year; in grapes, strong, well-grown one-year-olds are as good as two-year-olds and better than poor or medium two-year vines. When the stock is received, open out the bales or bundles, spread them out in a trench dug in some mellow soil, cover up one-third of trunk, working the fine earth among the roots, so that the roots come into contact with the soil. Have the land to be planted well prepared for some hoe crop; the quickest way to mark is to run a double furrow where each row of trees is to be planted, and then mark out the same way crosswise. If these furrows have been done accurately, the trees can be set at each intersection, and will not require very much digging, and will be easily kept straight by sighting up the furrow each way. Trim off all bent, broken or injured roots, cutting with a slant and a sharp knife. Trim, as a rule, all of the side twigs or branches, and leave the tree from two to three feet high, cutting off the top to that height. Plant the tree a little deeper than it has been in the nursery row, firming the fine soil well among the roots, leaving the top soil two inches unpacked or loose. The first two or three years a hoe crop should be kept in the orchard, and no weeds allowed to seed. In peaches and plums, after three years, it is better not to plant any crop among trees, but to give them full possession of the soil. Pears may be cropped a year or two longer, and apples a little longer still. Give the trees plenty of room; they will live longer, and yield better fruit. Set peaches and plums at least 20 feet each way; or, I prefer, 22 to 24 ft. between the rows one way, and 18 the other way. This will enable the fruit-grower to work between the trees the wide way longer after the fruit begins to bend the limbs and they come down too low to go under. Low-headed are to be preferred, as they are more easily sprayed, pruned and picked, saving fully twenty-five per cent. in labor. A record should be kept of varieties planted in each row, so if any should die they can be replaced with the same variety next season. Grapevines when planted should be cut back to one or two shoots, and those only two or three buds in length.

Lincoln Co., Ont.

ROBT. THOMPSON.

Robbing the Lawn.

By this time the inhabitants of the cities have diligently raked up all the old grass and leaves on their lawns, so as "to give the new grass a good start." Then during the summer they will patiently spray it with the garden hose to keep it fresh. If they would leave a little of the old grass and leaf mold on the lawn, and wait a few days longer for the velvet shaven of the new blades, the soil would be richer, and in better condition to withstand summer heat and drought. Sticks, stones and such objects should be removed, of course, as they are bad for lawn mower or scythe (too many country lawns are still mowed with the scythe), but nothing is better for a lawn, meadow or pasture than a little humus, in the form of leaf mold.

Importers of fruit are warned that the Fruit Marks Act, referring to the grading and packing of fruit, and sections 4 and 5 of the Act, "Respecting the packing and sale of certain staple commodities," referring to the size of fruit packages, will be strictly enforced. Importers of foreign fruit will be held responsible for the packing and marking of the fruit which they sell. Fruit Marks Act, and the Act "Respecting the packing and sale of certain staple commodities," may be had, free, on application to the Fruit Division, Ottawa.

A. McNEILL, Chief, Fruit Division.