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Re Dahlia and Canna Seeds.

"Amateur," Cambridge, Ont., writes: "Dear Florist,—Thank you very, very much for your help when I consulted you some time ago. May I ask you one thing more? In the seed catalogues, I have seen advertised the seeds of Dahlias, Cannas, Lily of the Valley, and other tuberous-rooted plants. Can they be grown successfully from seed, or is it better to buy the roots?"

"Perhaps this will help some frequenter of your corner: Last spring in an angle formed by a south wall and a west one, where the sun came only a few minutes in the morning, I planted climbing Nasturtiums. The seed was started in the house, in eggshells filled with earth and placed in a box. It is a very good plan for starting large seeds. The Nasturtiums bloomed all summer long, and were visited by humming birds from morning till night. They were a little trouble to keep in order, but were worth it, as they brightened up an otherwise dark corner, where few other things would grow."

Ans.—Canna seeds may be started in late winter in flats (shallow boxes), with a good bottom heat, or in a hotbed. Sandpaper each seed off on the end opposite the germ until the white shows, then soak an hour or two before planting. When large enough to handle, transplant, very gently, into thumb pots, and put in a warm, sunny window. Shift as often as necessary until all danger of frost is past, then set out in deep beds of well-manured muck. At all times give plenty of water and good drainage. Seed sown in February or March should give blooming plants by the end of June.

Dahlias also may be started from the seed in flats, or in a hotbed. Plant in drills, two inches apart, and cover with about a quarter of an inch of soil. Keep warm and damp. Transplant when ready, and plant out in the open when all danger of frost is past. Dahlias also require plenty of water and good drainage.

Both Cannas and Dahlias are quite easily started in this way, and often give surprises by appearing as quite new varieties. It is well, though, for fear of mishaps, to plant a few of the tubers also.

Vines and Border Plants for Sunny Veranda.

In answer to a correspondent, "Chin-wag," Grey Co., Ont., who wrote re vines for a sunny veranda, we would say that Virginia Creeper, Grape and Trumpet-vine are good old stand-bys that will grow with little care, and almost in any situation. The first, however, has the disadvantage of losing its leaves early, and the last of branching out well above and leaving bare stems below. To overcome this difficulty, when these vines are used, some other kind should be planted to intertwine among them. Of these, none is more suitable than the beautiful Clematis Paniculata, with its delicate foliage and clusters of white star-like blossoms.

All of these vines grow rather slowly, hence while waiting for them to develop to make a good showing, Balloon Vine, Canary Creeper, Cobaea Scandens, Cinnamon Vine, Madeira Vine, and Moonflower may be planted, with Nasturtiums twining below. Sweet Peas should do well in such a situation, if given a very deep, rich seed-bed and plenty of water. They should, however, be planted very early in the spring; just as soon, in fact, as the ground is workable.

By "border plants" for the veranda, we presume you mean a border to go just outside of the vines. White Perennial Phlox, which keeps its foliage fresh and green until snowfall, should be admirable for this, and will grow up year after year with little care. Along with it, almost any of the "easy" annuals or perennials may be planted—Cornflowers (blue), Gypsophila (feathery white), Asters (white, mauve or pink), Lilium Auratum (white, dotted crimson),

Lilium Candidum (pure white), Caladium Esculentum (foliage plant), Salvia (scarlet), Tulip Poppies (scarlet), Shirley Poppies (white to crimson), Coreopsis (yellow and crimson), Crimson Flax, Perennial Delphinium (blue), Cosmos (blooms late, but is valuable for feathery foliage), Summer-flowering Chrysanthemums (white to yellow). The colors which harmonize must, of course, be chosen.

Outside of these again, for the lowest edging, we would recommend Candytuft, Alyssum, Mignonette, Ageratum (blue), Dusty Miller (white foliage), Feverfew (yellowish-green foliage), Dwarf Asters, Dwarf Nasturtiums, Geraniums.

For veranda or window boxes, Trailing Nasturtiums, to droop outside, with Geraniums, Heliotrope, Ageratum, White Verbena, will be found to do well with a southern exposure. For eastern exposure try Tuberous Begonias, Nasturtiums, Heliotrope, Fuchsias, Maurandya, White Antirrhinum; for nothern, Caladiums, Fuchsias, Ivy Geranium, Begonias, Asparagus, Boston Fern, Manettia Vine, Leopard Plant.

Paper Bags for Seedlings.

Are the editors of "The Farmer's Advocate" told so often that the magazine is getting better and better all the time that they are getting tired of hearing it? However, it is the truth about it, especially the parts that most particularly interest women. How these bright days remind us that our paint and paper, and our household furniture generally, are getting shabby, and we are rather impatiently waiting the coming of spring so we can rejuvenate the inside of the house so as to be more of a match for the freshness of things outside. How many make small paper boxes—I use newspapers—in which to plant delicate seeds that must be started in the house? Take pieces of paper, about four inches square, fold up in the shape of a box, and tack at the corners. When you want to put the plants out in the garden, they do not have to be disturbed, as the box can be planted. The damp earth soon rots the paper, so that the roots can go through without difficulty. Some day, when the children want amusing, and there is nobody around to do it, look up a calendar of last year, or earlier, cut it apart in the fashion of sliced animals, and give it to them to put together. They, the children, will be safely off your mind for the next hour. With best wishes,

CANADA FIRST.

The foregoing letter from "Canada First," as well as the preceding query from "Chin-wag," was sent to the Ingle Nook, but has been forwarded to this department. The suggestion re paper boxes is good. Eggshells, as noted in "Amateur's" letter, small cotton bags, cans, burnt until the bottoms come off then tied with strings, are all similar devices which are very valuable for starting young plants. . . . Will correspondents who wish to talk about plants, kindly write that portion of their letters on separate slips so that they may be more conveniently placed in the "Flower" department?

Recipes.

Black Cake.—One and three-quarters lbs. "Five Roses" flour, 1½ lbs. brown sugar, 1 lb. butter, 1½ lbs. raisins, 1½ lbs. currants, 4 eggs, ½ lb. lard, 1 pint milk, 1 nutmeg, and mace, 1 teaspoon baking powder.

Cream Tea Cakes.—Two lbs. "Five Roses" flour, 1 cup butter, ½ pint sour cream, ½ teaspoon soda, a little salt. Make into small cakes, and bake 15 or 20 minutes.

A doctor prescribed rest and change for a small girl, saying that her system was quite upset. After he had gone, the little girl said, "I knew I was upset, mamma, because my foot's asleep; and things must be pretty bad when you go to sleep at the wrong end."