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FORSYTHIA, OR GOLDEN BELL.



HOW wisely planned are the works of nature! Fruits in succession from June; flowers in succession from May! Among the first blossoms in the spring is the Forsythia, a shrub which opens its solitary golden flowers, in this latitude, in the month of May. It is a native of Northern China, from whence it was brought to England in the year 1845, receiving its English name in honor of a former gardener of the king at Kensington, by name Wm. Forsyth, who died in 1864. Botanically it belongs to the Olive family (Oleacæ), of which the only native representative in Canada is the ash. It is a dwarf, hardy shrub, of dense spreading habit, which needs a little cutting back in the spring to keep it in good shape; some gardeners advise cutting back the last year's growth to within a few joints of its base. Its yellow drooping flowers appear, in advance of the foliage, on its willowy stems, which may be used in vases.

Gardeners make three varieties, viz., *Fortunei*, *Suspensa* and *Viridissima*, but these distinctions are not very marked. The first, perhaps, is the best variety, but the last-named is very attractive on account of its bright green foliage all through the summer, which hangs most persistently in autumn.

The Forsythia should not be dotted about everywhere in the yard, as they show to best advantage as single specimens in some distant corner, or grouped together on the green lawn. They also work in well with other shrubs, serving to enliven the effect of the whole.