

is as good a variety as you will want to grow.

I would not advise any one, with a limited plot, to attempt either cabbage or cauliflower.

What about beans? Well, of the dwarf varieties, try Early Yellow Six Weeks, and Burpee's Saddle Back Wax. If you want a dwarf bean quite ornamental, as well as delicious, try Burpee's Blue-podded Butter Beans—tall growing or climbing; White Creaseback—for eating or pickling, none better; White Dutch Case Knife—young pods for eating and beans excellent for shelling; Horticultural, and Lazy Wife's—of fine flavor and valuable for snapshorts. Lettuce—Grand Rapids, Tom Thumb, Hanson, and many others. Onions? Well, yes, try them, but first ask some one who is successful with them. Danver's Yellow and Prizetaker are hard to beat. You will need a row of cress and mustard, and several rows of spinach—the Victoria being a good variety. If you have a rich mellow soil, try a few rows of salsify, or vegetable oyster. A few plants of Scotch Kale will give you fine greens after the frost has come. Cucumbers? Yes, Everbearing, Boston Pickling, Giant Pera and Fordhook White Spine. Emerald is also worth growing. If you want a few squash, try Mammoth White Bush for summer use, and Hubbard for winter.

Now for tomatoes. Buy well-established plants and give them the hottest spot in the garden. Work the ground well. If it is a heavy soil and you can easily get sand, mix quite a lot into the soil, with a liberal supply of manure. After the plants have been well established, put a coating of sand on the ground all around the plants. Use stakes or trellis wires to tie the plants to, and cut out all lateral branches below the fruit. Varieties?—Well, Spark's Earliana, Matchless, Acme and Golden Queen. Try a hundred or so of Paris Golden celery if you want to. The experiment will be interesting.

The quantity of vegetables you can get off of a small plot will amaze you. It is difficult to tell you how to do it. I could shew you how. You will learn, best of all, by going at it yourself. It is an excellent tonic.

How to Start Ferns

Thos. Manton, Eglinton

How can Asparagus and Maiden Hair Ferns be best started?—(Mrs. A. P. H., Prince Edward Co.)

Asparagus Plumosus, generally called the Asparagus Fern, is best raised from seed. The seeds can be procured from any of the leading seedsmen. They germinate quickly if soaked for an hour in water as hot as the hand can be held in, and then sown in rich garden soil and placed in a warm window. As soon as the plants are large enough to handle, they should be potted each into a very

small pot and kept in a warm, light place. As the pots fill with roots larger pots should be given and extra rich soil supplied. Maiden Hair Ferns are started from ripe spores gathered from strong, well-grown plants.

BULB DEPARTMENT

Questions Answered by
Mr. Herman Simmers

Uncovering Bulbs

What is the best time to uncover bulbs which have been protected during the winter, and how should it be done?—(C. J. K., Picton.)

To give a definite date one cannot do so; generally towards middle of April if weather continues good. After they have been uncovered for a few days should a frost come afterwards they will not be damaged. To uncover the bulbs remove the litter with a fork, taking care to avoid breaking shoots that are coming through the ground.

Best Bulbous Plant

Is there any bulbous plant more desirable for perennial borders than *Lilium candidum*.—(H. C., Orangeville.)

Lilium candidum has always done remarkably well in this climate. Others have done fairly well but do not increase as rapidly. *Lilium auratum*, *Lilium speciosum*, *album*, *roseum*, *rubrum*, *punctatum*, have been successful, and follow the *Lilium candidum* in their blooming period.

Cutting Crocus in Lawn

How long should crocus bulbs in the grass be left to ripen after flowering, before the lawn is mowed?—(H. G., Guelph.)

It seemingly makes no difference at what stage the tops are cut off, especially if the bulbs are planted deep enough. They are more likely to increase than diminish if cut off early.

Early Spring Work

What work should be done with bulbs during April or early May?—(J. C., Simcoe.)

Very little work is necessary except to carefully remove the litter placed there in the fall. All the other work should have been done to the bed in the fall at time of planting.

Bulbs After Flowering

Will you kindly tell me whether a tulip or hyacinth bed can be utilized after the bulbs are done flowering, for cannas, gladioli, Tuberous Begonias, etc., without removing the bulbs?—(A. E. B., Stirling.)

This depends very much on whether you have planted your tulips, hyacinths, etc., deep enough. If you have you may plant gladioli or Tuberous Begonias in the beds, but cannas had better not be as they root very deeply. They are

apt to take too much nourishment from the soil for the bulbs to do well another season. As soon as the bulbs have bloomed and tops withered somewhat you can fork the bed lightly and dig some well-rotted manure or artificial fertilizer in the bed. With this treatment good results are assured.

April Planting

Are there any bulbs that should be planted in April?—(S. A., Burlington.)

Assuming this to be open air planting there are none that can be planted with safety.

Seeding Down a Lawn

Prof. H. L. Hutt, O.A.C., Guelph

I desire some advice in the matter of seeding down for a school lawn. The soil is very sandy but not barren sand. Garden crops do fairly well in it. Which is it more advisable, to sow the seed in the fall or in the spring? I have heard that if seeding is done in the fall, one bushel of rye per acre should be used with the lawn grass to serve as a foster crop. The rye would come up in the spring and help to form a sod. Would it help to scatter some commercial fertilizer and should it be applied with the seed in the fall, or could that be done as well in the spring? Would a top dressing of manure in the fall, if the seeding is done then, be of much advantage? I have used barley with fair success as a foster crop when seeding in the spring.—(J. W. G., Kingston.)

In seeding down a lawn, it is not advisable to use anything as a foster crop. Rye would grow so strong and rank as to nearly choke out the smaller grasses sown at the same time. The best way to get a well-seeded lawn is to use a mixture of the hardy native grasses of fine growth. We have found Red Top, Blue Grass, and White Clover, equal parts by weight, make an excellent mixture. The best time to seed down for a lawn is early in the spring, as there is then sufficient moisture to cause early germination of the seeds, and in a favorable season there should be no difficulty in getting a good green sward in a couple of months. The older it gets the thicker it becomes.

When seeding is done in the fall the plants usually have not time for much growth, and a great number are destroyed in the winter. If fall sowing is resorted to, I would recommend giving the soil a liberal dressing of well-rotted manure before winter comes. The coarsest of this can be raked off in the spring before the seed is sown.

The seed should be raked into the soil, and in case of sandy soil in a dry season, it would be best to roll the land after seeding. If the ground is poor and the grass does not come up evenly, this can be remedied by occasional top dressings of well-rotted manure in the fall and raking in additional grass seed in the poorer spots in the spring.