

round its stem, that every inch of ground may become available. The tall, naked stem of the young ash looks well festooned with roses and honeysuckles. Wherever creeping flowering plants can live, let them adorn every nook and corner, stem, wall and post; they are elegant in appearance, and many of them, particularly clematis, are delicious in fragrant scent.

If flowers are planted in round or square plots, the same rule applies in arranging them. The tallest must be placed in the center, but I recommend a lady to banish sunflowers and hollyhocks from her plots, and consign them to broad borders against a wall, or in clumps of three and three, as a screen against any unsightly object. Their large roots draw so much nourishment from the ground, that the lesser plants suffer, and the soil becomes quickly exhausted. Like gluttons, they should feed alone, or their companions will languish in starvation, and become impoverished. The wren cannot feed with the vulture.

Flowers are divided into three classes:—annuals, biennials, and perennials.

Annuals are those flowers which are raised from seed alone, in the spring, and which die in the autumn. They are again divided into three classes:—the tender and more curious kinds, the less tender or hardier kinds, and the hardiest and common kinds.

Biennials are those flowers which are produced by seed, bloom the second year, and remain two years in perfection, after which they gradually dwindle and die away.

Some sorts, however, of the biennials, afford a continuation of plants by offsets, slips and cuttings of the tops, and by layers and pipings, so that, though the parent flower dies, the species are perpetuated, particularly to continue curious double flowered kinds, as for instance, double rockets, by root offsets, and cuttings of the young flower stalks; double wallflowers by slips of the small top shoots; double sweet-williams by layers and pipings, and carnations by layers.

Perennials are those flowers which continue many years and are propagated by root offsets, suckers, parting roots, &c., as will be more fully particularized under the head of perennials.

It has been a debated point among florists whether plots or baskets should be devoted each to a particular variety of flower, or receive flowers of different kinds, flowering at separate seasons. Thus, many ladies set apart one plot of ground for anemones only—another plot receives only pansies, and so on. There is much to be said on both sides of the question.

Every flower may be supplied with its favorite soil with a little patience and observation. A light soil suits all descriptions very well; and I never yet found disappointment in any description of earth which was thoroughly well dug, and dressed yearly from the mound of accumulated leaves and soap-suds, before alluded to. I particularly recommend a portion of sand mixed with the heap. All bulbs, carnations, pinks, auriculas, ranunculuses, &c., love a mixture of sand. I know no flowers of the hardy class which reject it. Mix sand well into your borders and plots, and you will not fail to have handsome flowers.

Ants are very great enemies to flowers; but I know

no method of attacking them except in their own strongholds, which I have always done with cruel intrepidity and success. My only plan was to lay open the little ant-hill, and pour boiling water upon the busy insects, which destroyed at once the commonwealth, and the eggs deposited within the mound. In some places ants are extremely large and abundant, and they quickly destroy the beauty of a flower by attacking its root and heart.

The term *deciduous*, applied to shrubs, signifies that they shed their leaves every winter.

*Herbaceous* plants, signify those plants whose roots are not woody, such as stocks, wallflowers, &c., &c.

*Fibrous* rooted plants, are those whose roots shoot out small fibres, such as polyanthus, violets, &c.

*Tuberous*-rooted plants, signify those roots which form and grow into little tubes, such as anemones, ranunculuses, &c.

Perennials are flowers of many years' duration; and they multiply themselves most abundantly by suckers, off-sets, parting the roots, &c. They require little trouble beyond taking care to renew the soil every year or two by a somewhat plentiful supply from the compost heap; and by separating the offsets and parting the roots in autumn, to strengthen the mother plant. When the flowers are past and the stems have decayed, then the operation may take place. Choose a showery day for transplanting the roots, or give them a moderate watering to fix them in their fresh places. When you transplant a flower root, dig a hole with your trowel sufficiently large to give the fibers room to lie freely and evenly in the ground.

I have laid great stress upon possessing a heap of compost, ready to apply to roots and shrubs every spring and autumn. Wherever the soil is good, the flowers will bloom handsomely; and no lady will be disappointed of that pleasure, if a compost heap forms one essential, in a hidden corner of the flower garden. If you raise your perennials from seed, sow it when the ground has become thoroughly warmed, in a bed of light earth, in the open ground. Let the bed be in a genial, warm situation, and divide it into small compartments; a compartment for each sort of seed.

Sow the seed thin, and rake or break the earth over them finely. Let the larger seed be sown half an inch deep, and the smaller seed a quarter of an inch. Water the beds in dry weather often, with a watering-pot, not a jug. The rose of the watering-pot distributes the water equally among the seedlings; whereas, water dashed upon them from a jug falls in masses, and forms holes in the light earth, besides prostrating the delicate seedling.

About the end of May, the seedlings will be fit to remove into another nursery bed, to gain strength till October; or be planted at once where they are to remain. Put the plants six inches apart, and water them moderately, to settle the earth about their roots.

But it is rarely required to sow seed for perennial plants; they multiply so vigorously and quickly of themselves, by offsets; and cuttings may be made of the flower stalks in May and June in profusion.

The double scarlet lychnis, and those plants which rise with firm flower stems, make excellent cuttings,