

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Carnations, in demand for cut flowers, should be sown as early as possible this month in the open ground and in July should be transplanted eight or ten inches apart. They will stand the Winter where the thermometer does not fall much below zero, and where the ground is covered with snow they will stand a much lower temperature, flowering the second season. If potted in the Autumn and brought into the house, they will flower during the early Spring months.

The cut-worms are now at work eating young plants off close to the ground. The mischief being done at night, many are perplexed as to its cause. Paris green dusted dry or mixed with water and sprinkled on the plants near the roots will stop their ravages. When cut-worms are discovered quick action must be taken or the whole bed of plants will be sacrificed.

During the Summer water plants liberally and often and stir the soil frequently, loosening up the ground to admit air, which helps the plant and keeps the weeds down. Allowing weeds to grow exhausts the soil fully as much as a cultivated crop. How plants will thrive by watering once or twice a week with manure water! To prepare it, build a strong framework about eighteen inches high and on this set a barrel filled with manure. Over this pour water. A gimlet hole stopped with a small wooden plug will answer as a faucet. The water can be conveniently drawn off into a watering pot or pail. The barrel should be placed in a secluded corner and hidden by quick-growing vines or tall plants such as ricinus.

If troubled with ground moles in the flower bed, a plant or two of ricinus, castor oil bean, grown in the bed will drive them away.

Physalis francheti, or Japanese Winter cherry, of recent introduction, is a decided novelty. It is of striking appearance, growing about eighteen inches high. The foliage is bright-green, making an effective background for the bright-red fruit enclosed in a semi-transparent capsule about three inches long and seven inches in circumference. This capsule at first is of light-green, gradually changing to yellow, orange and finally to crimson. It should be planted at once and treated as a tomato, to which it is related. The fruit may be eaten by those who like it. It makes a fine plant for pot culture, thrives in the house in Winter and is easily grown from seed.

Fuchsias require about the same cultivation as geraniums. A partly-shaded posi-

tion, the north side of a house or a north-west corner—a situation which very few plants will stand—seems to just suit the fuchsia, and as this particular corner is sometimes the only one available, by all means use it for fuchsias. Rex begonias are also good in this position, for low-growing plants. The fuchsias have been greatly improved, the new varieties having very handsome, large flowers. In rich soil, with a thorough watering every day, fine robust plants will be developed and covered with blooms. Of the newer kinds are: Phenomenal, a dark plum color; Molesworth, white, both double-flowering; and Black Prince, carmine, and Mrs. Marshall, carmine-and-white, for single-flowering—all excellent.

A sweet-pea trellis may be made by planting a well-braced post deeply at each end of the row and stretching three stout wires from post to post, one at the top, another three or four inches from the ground and the third wire midway. Light twigs should then be woven between the wires, the top and bottom wires on one side of the twig and the middle wire on the other.

Japanese maples are exceedingly beautiful dwarf plants. The foliage is of various beautiful colors, deepening in the Autumn, with lace-like outlines. They are hardly as far north as Boston, but in the north-western states they should be treated as pot plants and will succeed with this treatment anywhere.

For cemetery lots in which the plants can be conveniently watered several times a week, beds may be made of plants mentioned last month, but for plots that are only visited occasionally, hardy plants should be selected. For low borders armeria is unequalled, remaining green all through the year. Among taller plants, achillea, the pearl, is also good for borders. Its pure-white flowers, are borne in great profusion and resemble the chrysanthemum. The anemones are showy and bloom from August until frost. Also to be commended are: Coreopsis, iberis saxatile (dwarf white), or iberis, semperflorens, early, sweet-scented white flowers, familiar under the name candy-tuft; lychnis, double rose, blooming freely from early Spring until late Fall; pyrethrum, with fern-like foliage, flowering freely, the flowers somewhat resembling asters; spiraea with graceful foliage and fine sprays of feathery flowers. The hardy English violet is also good. For larger plants to be grown in clumps, hardy roses, yucca, funkia and helleborus may be used. Graves may be covered with English ivy, honeysuckles or clematis. Of the tender plants, petunias and verbenas will make the most showy beds with the least possible care.

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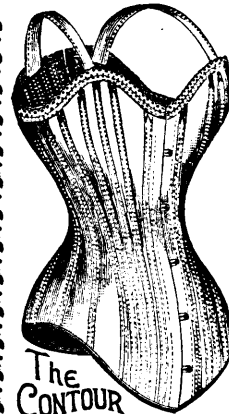
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