

THE VIOLA.

ON the alps in central Europe, on the Andes in S. America, as well as in our British fields and hedgerows, *Violas* of many species grow and flourish—true “Wildings of nature,” and many of our modern garden varieties retain a robustness of constitution and are regardless of extremes which they must have acquired and inherited from progenitors who were wanderers by flood and field. This will almost serve to show that their culture is a very easy matter for in any good ordinary garden soil which has been enriched by manure, *Violas* will grow, and grow well. They are not particular as to situation or exposure, provided they are planted out early, and get thoroughly established

before the warm weather sets in. The ground should be deeply dug in spring, or as soon as frost disappears, and a liberal quantity of decomposed manure incorporated with the soil, and also a quantity of soot—say a spadeful spread over every ten square yards. Just before planting, the surface should be broken up with a rake and made firm and fine, a good dry day being chosen for the work. Seeds may be sown now, in a shady portion of the garden, but I would advise amateurs to procure this year's requirements from any florist or nurseryman, as seedlings I think would need protection in winter.

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DAHLIAS.



FIG. 1121.—DAHLIA.

NEARLY all the various forms and varieties of *Dahlias* have been obtained from some single flowered varieties imported to England from Spain nearly one hundred years ago. Being so easily grown, *Dah-*

lias are always prominent among our garden flowers, although of late the stiff show varieties of large size seem less popular than formerly. Indeed, the single flowered varieties have been much sought after by those who admire the Daisy and the Marguerite. Cornell Bulletin 28, gives many interesting pointers about *Dahlias*, from which we give some extracts with illustrations. Of late those single *Dahlias* have been made dwarf and compact in habit, and a race of them is known as “Tom Thum Single *Dahlias*,” which are much appreciated.

To show what numbers of varieties of *Dahlias* have been originated, we note that in 1841 one English dealer had over 1,200 varieties.

“In the forties and fifties variegated flowers were in great demand. *Dahlias* were striped, banded, speckled, penciled, dotted, blotched, and marked in all sorts of curious ways. There was as much