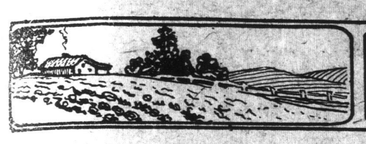

THE SIMPLE LIFE

THE HOME GARDEN

GARDEN CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Order Bulbs now, and full list of Hardy Plants, Fruits, etc.

Plant: Many Hardy Border Plants in suitable weather. Bulbs, and especially: Phloxes, Pyrethrums, Delphiniums, Gaillardias, Lilies, Crown Imperials, Strawberries, Primroses, Polyanthuses, Broccoli, Salad Plants, Coleworts.

Pot: Narcissi, Scillas, Chionodoxa, Fressias.

Sow: Prickly Spinach, Cabbage, Red Cabbage, Colewort, Cauliflower, Tripoli Onion, Lettuces, Cos, and Cabbage, Endive, Turnips for winter, Horn Carrot, Mustard and Cress Radish, Cucumber in heat, Onions in heat, Primula, Calceolaria, Hardy Annuals for Spring, Mignonette, Forget-me-Not, Grass Seeds, Parsley, Tomato.

ROSES UNDER GLASS FOR AMATEURS

Great Importance of Cleaning the House

BEFORE filling the benches with soil the house must be disinfected to kill any disease spores or insects. In a general-purpose amateur's house this can't be done, perhaps, but a partial treatment can be given to the bench. If the house is empty burn sulphur on a hot sunny afternoon, shutting up the house tightly as soon as the sulphur is well lighted, and leave all snug until the next morning, when the benches must be washed and cleaned inside and outside, and then given a good coat of hot lime wash. This will destroy any insects or spores remaining in the bench. This wash is prepared as follows: To nine pounds of unslacked stone lime take two pounds of powdered sulphur and water. Pour the water over the lime, and when it commences bubbling pour in the sulphur, stir until dissolved, and apply while still hot. The sulphur in the bench will help to keep the roses free from mildew and the wash to preserve the wood of the benches.

Best Way of Filling the Bench

The soil as previously composted either in the fall or spring is brought into the house and put into the beds or benches which have been thoroughly cleaned. It is well to line the bottom of the bench with sod to hold in the soil, grassy side of the sod down and the root part up. This is specially necessary when the boards of the bench are placed an inch apart, as is sometimes the case. Fill in three inches of soil with such fertilizer as may be necessary, mixing all in thoroughly with the hands, and at the same time picking out all stones and any other rough material. Leave the surface of the bed rounded rather than level to allow for subsequent settling. Don't pound the soil. Use a fork to break up any lumps if you like, but the best practical men use their hands as the leveling and finishing tool.

Just How to Plant

The actual work of planting is easy enough. By means of a line mark off the beds so as to give the plants fifteen inches apart either way, at least. Thoroughly water the young plants in pots two hours before they are to be planted; they will then leave the pots readily and retain a solid ball, and, of course, they must not be allowed to dry out before being planted. In planting from a pot to a bed or bench the one essential thing is to have the ball of roots and earth from the pot united with the new soil in the bed. To attain this end loosen the ball by gentle pressure, and open out the roots by working with the fingers. Be careful not to break the roots. Set the plants no deeper than they were in the pots, and after filling in with soil firm well by pressure around the sides with a closed fist. Put the larger plants in the back rows. As soon as planting is complete give a good watering and new feeding fibres will be made at once. This watering is given close around each plant rather than over the whole bed, and the work will be easy by leaving a slight shallow around each plant to catch the water. Once planted they must never suffer for want of water, neither should they be saturated at any time.

Syringe overhead two or three times a day on very hot days, and let the plants have all air possible, even leaving a little ventilation at night. This treatment will make a sturdy growth and solid wood, which enables the plants to successfully go through a winter-forcing campaign. The whole of the house, walks, and under benches must be cleaned up and made tidy after the planting.

A Guide to the Art of Watering

From the day the young rose plants are put into the benches they must be watered frequently and systematically. Eight times a day is not too often during the most trying period of the summer. There are great differences of opinion on the subject of watering, and there are hardly two growers who treat their plants alike. In cloudy, rainy weather the most careful manipulation of ventilating and watering, coupled with the best judgment, are necessary to maintain the vigor and the health of the plants. It is not then safe to water or syringe, and the only thing to do is to moisten frequently the walks and under the benches. One successful gardener on a private estate here tells of his method of watering.

"The first good syringing is given at about 7 a.m., under rather than above the foliage, with the idea of dislodging any insect. The other six are given above the foliage more to moisten the leaves and to stop too rapid evaporation from them, for being planted under glass, without shade, the evaporation through the foliage is more rapid than the absorption by the roots. Under this method I have found that the plants developed foliage rapidly and of good substance, and consequently are less susceptible to attacks of mildew."

Of course the beds must not be made overwet. The number of syringings may be reduced to two, but they will be heavier and the water given equally to the soil and to the foliage. With frequent syringings the water is kept from the soil as much as possible. The amateur is much more likely to err on the side of giving too little water—maintaining too dry an atmosphere—than he is to make the mistake of giving too much.

After the plants have been in the benches for two or three weeks they will be making a good growth and can be watered more freely. Keep the surface of the soil stirred and clear of weeds. But don't work too deeply—half an inch is enough.

How Successful Rosarians Get Good Soil

The rose likes a rich soil. Without a proper soil the finest house will fail to produce good roses, and with suitable soil one can get along very well indeed in a makeshift sort of a house. In many small places where it is not practicable to give up one house entirely to roses, it is at the same time possible to attain a tolerable result by paying strict attention to the soil requirements. That all places are not equally well suited for growing roses under glass is most likely due to differences in the soils. The soil should be produced in August or September for use next year so that the winter may act upon it. By preference get soil from an old pasture that has not been cultivated for many years. A heavy loam from grass land that has been regularly grazed is the ideal basis of the compost heap for roses. A good tough sod full of roots is to be sought not for the grass tops, but for the root fibre.

Haying the soil, stock it just before winter in proportions of three parts soil to one of cow manure, layer upon layer in a mound of convenient height, but not too high nor too broad for the frost to penetrate. Let it remain without any cover till spring. In composting fresh manure can be used; but if the manure is added at the time the soil is chopped down in the spring it must have been thoroughly rotted previously. As soon as the weather in spring is "open" and the soil sufficiently dried out to be worked the whole heap should be turned and allowed to remain fully a month, when it is turned once more. Use a spade in these operations. One month before it will be carried into the house it should have the final turning, when bone meal (about one part to fifty) or other fertilizer may be added. Everything depends upon the quantity of the soil. To that taken from a pasture yielding one ton of hay to the acre one-fourth its bulk of manure may be added, whereas a pasture cutting 2 tons to the acre will not need more than one-eighth its bulk of manure. At the last turning of the compost an addition of lime and bone meal may be made—but neither in large quantities; lime is to be used only when the soil is specially heavy. Mica is added if the soil is unusually light. It will be better perhaps for the amateur to omit the lime and apply the bone meal (or wood ashes) directly to the soil in the beds or benches as a top dressing before planting at the rate of one bushel to a hundred-foot house. Or, ten pounds of each, bone meal and wood ashes, or bone meal and sheep manure, to 200 square feet of glass, mixed with the soil in the bench or while turning outdoors, will be sufficient.

The Principles of Greenhouse Construction

The amateur can grow good roses in any reasonably well-built and sufficiently lighted house where a proper degree of heat can be had. All houses of whatever pattern will of course be run east and west. The three-quarter-span roof makes the house very high at the ridge, as a regular pitch of seven and one-half inches to the foot is maintained. The even-span house, in which both sides of the roof are the same size and the ridge in the centre, is cheaper to build and costs less for repairs. For the amateur the even span is more useful, as it can be turned to any other purpose if roses are tired of.

Although different varieties of roses may show preferences for different soils, still for the amateur a good general one is preferred, and a soil prepared as above will answer perfectly well. A soil that is good for almost all varieties will, if taken and rubbed between thumb and finger, have a mellow, smooth feeling. Perle des Jardins, La France, Duchess of Albany, and Niphetos succeed best on a lighter type of soil, while The Bride, Bridesmaid, Catherine Mermet, Madame Hoste, Papa Gontier, Souvenir de Wootton and American Beauty require heavy soils for their best development. Roses grown on a clay soil produce blooms of better color and substance than those grown on a lighter one.

Solid Beds or Raised Benches?

The present tendency is favoring solid beds, especially for American Beauty. The hybrid teas, which give the greatest satisfaction under glass, seem to flower more freely when planted in beds; on benches they exhibit a tendency to go dormant, and cease growth.

The benches should hold four and one-half inches of soil and have drainage provided by having the bottom boards or tiles one-half inch apart. In some beds drainage material—broken stone—is placed in for a space of fifteen inches and a soil depth of six or seven inches allowed.—Garden Magazine.

AUGUST BLOOM IN VICTORIA

RAISING HOLLYHOCKS FROM SEED SOWN IN AUGUST

Anyone can easily raise a stock of hollyhocks by sowing the seed as soon as possible after they are ripe. It is important to gather them as early as possible, because if left on the plants there is danger of loss from rotting as a result of the late summer rains. The old-fashioned way of raising hollyhocks was by cuttings, and if one wishes to be sure of increasing a given variety that is the only way. I have grown a full set of Chater's hollyhocks, which are the finest to be had, and found that they would reproduce themselves so nearly true from seed as to render the tedious cutting method quite unnecessary for the ordinary amateur. Sow seeds in July or August in a drill one inch deep in a sunny, rich soil, leaving plenty of space between the seeds to allow the young plants to grow without crowding until the next spring—not less than four inches. The drills should be eighteen inches apart, to permit cultivation either with the wheel cultivator or hand hoe. At the approach of winter protect the plants by a light covering of straw and leaves with boards placed over all, both to hold the covering and to shed water. This is of course best done by having two boards joined together to form an inverted V. If it is desired to keep the colors separate, of course they must be labeled in the rows where sown; but if a mixed bed of hollyhocks is wanted it is far better to mix the seeds before sowing, for somehow or other it is hard to plant a mixed bed from separate colors—at least it is hard to get it done satisfactorily.

When the covering is removed the following spring the plants will be in perfect condition to transplant to the positions they are to fill in the garden. When lifting them take great care to dig deep and secure intact the long, fleshy roots, as they are the standby of the plants during the stress of hot weather and drought. The reason why there are so many hollyhocks of only average quality seen, and so few really good ones, is that insufficient care is given to preparing the soil. Double dig the place where they are to be planted and put a generous quantity of rich manure in the trench when refilling it; or feed freely all through the growing season with nitrate of soda, one-half ounce, and superphosphate and kainit, one-fourth ounce each, to two gallons of water. Give this once in three weeks.

The all-outdoor cultivation of hollyhocks is far more simple than the old way of starting them under glass and, moreover, gives us plants with stronger constitution. Treated in this way as a biennial, it will give better results than when grown as a perennial.

A Race of Annuals

Very recently a distinct new race of hollyhocks has been introduced which promises to be very valuable to the amateur in that if sown early the plants grow to full size in the season and bloom profusely in late summer—branching freely from the ground up. There are both single and semi-double varieties, and the foliage is often distinctly lobed (showing evident traces of Althaea ficifolia), the colors are of many shades, and by a little selection we shall no doubt have as wide a range of color with equal perfection in form as exist today in the older hollyhock (A. rosea.) In their essential requirements these are the same as the older favorites and will certainly become popular.

One other advantage of the annuals is that they do not appear to be so liable to the disease which almost ruined hollyhock culture a few years ago. This system of growing the old type strictly as a biennial, sowing in July as directed, very materially lessens the liability to disease.

Propagation by cutting is accomplished by taking pieces of young shoots, consisting of two joints with lower leaves removed, and inserting them in fine soil frames during August But I prefer seeds.—E. O. Orpet.

FLOWERING SHRUBS AND THEIR CARE

Flowering shrubs are a class of plants that give permanent and satisfying results to the grower after once being planted. There are so many varieties that it would be impossible to describe them all in a single paper, as they would fill a catalogue besides the list already known, many new species and many varieties of old species are being continually introduced by nurserymen. As a rule the majority of them are of the hardiest nature.

Preparation of Soil

Like everything else that we grow, we must go to some trouble in preparing the soil thoroughly where shrubs are to grow, in order to have the best results, as usually after once being planted they are not disturbed for many years, and then only perhaps to thin them out or to move one not planted in the position best suited. So much is continually dinned into our ears about preparing the soil well for planting anything, that it seems unnecessary now to repeat it; but to have good healthy shrubs with plenty of fine flowers, it pays to drain it and to apply plenty of good strong manure thoroughly and deeply dug in.

Shrub Planting and Combinations

As a general rule shrubs are usually planted too thickly and afterwards become an indefinite hedge when the individuality of each shrub is lost in the mass. Unless intended to make a hedge or close border of one variety, a mixed collection should not be planted closer than six feet. This may seem a great distance when planting the small shrubs, but a few years' growth will show the necessity, besides allowing the plant to develop its characteristics evenly all around. The proper rule is to avoid violent contrasts and to place each where the color of the flowers and foliage will be most effective and the height of the shrub at maturity can be seen to the best advantage.

In a mixed border the planter is advised to place the tall growing kinds, such as the large-flowered syringa and lilacs at the back, wiegelias, hydrangeas, and so forth, in the middle and the dwarf sorts, such as Deutzia gracilis and Spiraea Fortunei in the front. In a border of this character, it is a good plan to mix in herbaceous plants, bulbs, and so forth, which, if properly assorted as to flowering period, will give an endless show from early spring till late fall.

Where there is plenty of garden room a fine effect is produced by massing three or more of one kind together, thus presenting a show of bloom that is satisfying, to say the least of it. For example, imagine half a dozen Spiraea Reevesiana of Spiraea Van Houttei alongside a clump of the diameter of the scarlet quince, Pyrus Japonica, both in flower together, or a group of white lilacs, five to eight feet high, in full flower in the background with a clump of scarlet quince in bloom in front; the effect is magnificent.

In this way, a group of Prunus cerasifera, var., Pissardi or Berberis vulgaris, var., atropurpurea against a mass of golden elder, is quite striking in color effect and makes a picture not easily forgotten, and in the fall of the year, a hedge of Hydrangea paniculata, in plumed masses of creamy white, flanked in front by a bed of scarlet gladiolus, makes a lasting show of color that is worth all the trouble to produce.—Exchange.

SHOOTS OF VINES

Failure in the growth of good grapes by amateurs is often caused by the want of knowledge of how and when to stop (meaning, to cut off) the young growth on the green shoots of vines in early summer when growth is so active. So rapid is the growth of the vine at this time of the year that, if the work of stopping is neglected, the roof of the vinery soon becomes one tangle of useless and wasteful shoots, shutting out light and air so necessary to the well-being of the vine and to the success of the crop of grapes, and at the expene of uselessly wasting the energies of the vine. This subject of stopping the vine is so simple and entails so little labor that, once well understood, a child could do the work without trouble, so that there is no sort of excuse for its being neglected. The new shoots which emerge in spring from the shoots of last year's growth, which were pruned back in winter, should be 15 inches apart (on both sides of the vine) on vines of moderate growth such as Black Hamburg, Muscat of Alexandria, Foster's Seedling and Buckland Sweetwater, and 18 inches on the stronger-grown sorts such as Gros Colman, Gros Marco and Alicante.

The bunch of grapes on these shoots generally appears after the third leaf of the shoot has been developed. As soon as three other small leaves have been formed above the bunch is the time to stop the shoot by pinching out the point or heart with the finger and thumb. This will leave six primary leaves on the shoot, which must be guarded and kept healthy until the crop is ripened and gathered, as on the health and vigour of these leaves the success of the crop greatly depends. The result of stopping the shoots will be that several other small shoots will emerge from the axils of the leaves below. These in their turn, as soon as they have formed two leaves, must be stopped in the same way, and so must also all the young shoots which will emerge from the stopping of these sub-shoots, which are termed laterals. By the time this third stopping will have taken place, growth of foliage will be on the wane and the grapes coloring, and then this laternal growth may be permitted more freedom with advantage, stopping them at the sixth leaf instead of the seventh.—Owen Thomas.