

HORTICULTURE

Sweet Peas

Wm. Hunt, Ontario Agricultural College

Sweet peas require a deep, fairly rich soil to produce the best flowering results. A trench about a foot in depth should be dug in an open place in the garden. The trench should be about the width of a spade. At the bottom of the trench, place five or six inches of well-sifted muck or peat. Pack down firmly. Fill the trench with good soil to within an inch or two of the surface. Then make a shallow trench the width of about three inches in depth. In this, sow the seed an inch or two apart and cover about two inches deep with soil, leaving a slight depression when the ground is raked over the peas. The plants can be thinned to three or four inches apart when the plants are five or six inches in height.

The flowers should be picked ev-

ery day to help prolong the flowering season. If the flowers are not kept picked, they develop seed pods and stop flowering early in the season.

Sweet peas require plenty of water at the roots. Sufficient water to soak the soil to the bottom of the trench should be given once a week in hot, dry weather. Start watering the plants before the lower leaves begin to turn yellow to get best results. Light waterings are of no use to sweet peas; give plenty of water and less frequent waterings, rather than only to sprinkle the top soil. In rich, loamy soil it may not be necessary to trench as mentioned, but I find that the plants stand the drought and heat of summer much better in a trench when treated as I have described.

Wide meshed poultry netting or brushwood stakes of maple or similar wood makes good support for sweet peas. I prefer boughs of the maple tree when they can be had. The support should be five or six feet in height at the base. Sow sweet peas as early in spring as the ground can be worked properly; they cannot be sown too early.

Co-operative Spraying Grant

The following are the rules and regulations in respect to securing a grant from the Ontario Department of Agriculture for the co-operative spraying of fruit trees:

1. A grant will be made to any five or more farmers or fruit growers who will unite to form a fruit growers' association for the proper spraying of their orchards.

2. These grants will be distributed

on the basis of so much per acre of efficient spraying as determined by the inspection of the officials of this Department.

3. At least 25 acres of fruit must be thoroughly sprayed during the proper season, each association applying for a grant.

4. At least one acre of fruit must be sprayed on the farm of each of the parties subscribing to the above agreement.

5. Such associations, before receiving any portion of the grant, shall satisfy an Inspector of the Department of Agriculture that the above conditions have been complied with. Such Inspector shall have free access to the orchards throughout the season for this purpose.

6. Before the end of November, a short report as to the results of the spraying and general crop conditions in the acreage covered shall be sent to the Department of Agriculture, on a form provided for that purpose.

7. No restriction as to the outfit to be purchased shall be made. It will pay to purchase the best equipment possible, as thorough work is absolutely necessary to success in spraying.

8. On request, the Department of Agriculture will, if possible, send a man well qualified in the preparation and application of the various spray mixtures to assist in starting the work or advise as to methods.

9. The grant will be payable on completion of the spraying season and the receipt of a report from the Inspector that the work has been carried out in accordance with above conditions.

10. Regular organized co-operative fruit growers' associations will be given preference in the distribution of the grants.

11. Where an association or member of an association has participated in the grants given during a previous year, such association or member thereof shall be entitled to receive a grant on the acreage previously taken into reckoning at only one-half the amount to newly organized associations.

12. All applications for consideration must be filed with the Department of Agriculture by June 1st.

Growing Hydrangeas

J. H. Thompson, Toronto.

There is probably no flowering shrub grown in Canada that gives such universal satisfaction, pleasure and delight, as the outdoor Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora. While lilacs, syringas, spiraea and other shrubs of this description are beautiful in their season, they last only a very short time. Hydrangeas, on the other hand, do not flower until midsummer, when no other shrubs are in bloom. It starts to form its blossom about the latter part of July, and gradually increases in size and beauty throughout August, attaining its greatest perfection about the first or middle of September, and lasts right through until cut off by the frost in October. It commences a beautiful creamy white, which, as the season advances, deepens into a rosy pink.

The flowers are formed on the end of the season's growth, and come in immense panicles which, in well-trained and cultivated plants, sometimes run eight to ten inches in length, making it the most handsome and showy of all flowering shrubs. The blossoms, if cut before frost, can be used with great effect for interior decorations, and will last and hold their color for some time.

This shrub is planted to greatest effect in mass, being used for border

ers, beds or hedges. One of the most popular ways of planting it is in mass as the base of a verandah.

The hydrangea is perfectly hardy and easy to grow, but will attain a more luxuriant growth if the ground is well prepared and rich. Every spring the plants should be severely pruned back, as the new blossoms always come on the tips of that season's growth. For this reason, it should be spurred back, leaving only a couple of buds on last season's wood, which would shorten them an inch or two in length. This will allow the whole strength of the root to go into only a few branches, which having the whole strength of the plant, will attain a large size, and consequently form immense blossoms, which would be many times the size of the small flowers that would form if the plant were not pruned.

Care should be exercised in watering with hose or watering can, to see that the water is not allowed to go on the leaves as they are apt to rust. In the growing season, however, the hydrangea needs lots of water, but this should be sprinkled on below so that it will not come in contact with leaves in any way.

Plants can be secured from any reliable nurseryman for a reasonable amount. Two years old is the best age to plant, before setting out, prune back with a sharp knife or pruning shears as mentioned above.

Numerous Fruit Convictions

The Fruit Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, has been very aggressive during the past few months in securing prosecutions against apple shippers and packers detected in shipping improperly graded fruit. During the past few months, thirty-two convictions against the Fruit Marks Act have been secured, including 21 in the Maritime Provinces. The prosecutions in Ontario have been in the hands largely of H. B. R. Smith, of the Department, who has done exceptionally good work having scarcely lost a case. Between the first of last September and the end of November, five inspectors, with the aid of twenty-four assistants, inspected 15,000 barrels of apples.

It is believed that this year, the price paid for apples in Canada is likely to be considerably less than that paid last year owing to the fact that the packers lost so heavily on last year's crop. One well known Ontario packer is said to have lost over \$80,000.00 on his shipments of fruit. These losses are going to make the packers very cautious this year in their purchase of apples.

The Garden

Before good work can be done in the garden, the gardener must have the proper tools. He can garden quite satisfactorily with a garden fork, spade, rake, hoe and trowel. Another great utility is a wheelbarrow. A few extra conveniences that will make very serious work in the garden line, a 25 cent pair of pruning shears and a 10 cent hand weeder. Get a few feet of hose if you can afford it.

When digging a plot of ground, always begin at one end and work backwards. Thus you will not be bothered by too much soil already have broken. When digging, work in furrows or manure at one time. Drive the spade or fork in as deeply as you can push it with the foot, lift it up and down, lift and turn the clod of earth, give it a smart blow to break it and go on to the next spot.

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