

thermometer is almost a necessity. Remember that the sun is often very strong, though the air is cool, and you will frequently have to raise the sash a trifle (often half an inch is enough) to keep the temperature down while the sun is on the glass, the moment the sun is off it, close down the sash and protect at night with an old rug or bit of carpet if there is any danger of frost. The most important part in getting seeds to grow is to give them enough moisture while germinating, so that by no mischance can they possibly dry out—once germination (growth) has started in a seed, if it is allowed to dry out entirely, it cannot possibly grow.

Some seeds germinate much more quickly than others, and this alone makes a hotbed rather difficult to care for, as a row of seedlings will often "damp off" in the moist atmosphere that is necessary to encourage growth in the seeds that are not yet up, so one has to resort to various methods to ensure a reasonable amount of success with all; keeping the earth moist over the "not ups," and drier where they are up and doing.

Some people advocate spreading a little moss over seeds that are slow in coming up, which serves the double purpose of keeping the ground moist, and also preventing the seeds, if very fine, from being beaten too far into the soil by heavy watering—the great drawback to this is that in removing the moss, when the seeds are up, you are very apt to decapitate some of your seedlings. More than one very precious petunia has fallen a victim at my hands, to the moss encircling it too closely. After trying many things I have found a bit of flannel laid over pots of very fine and expensive seed (which, by the way, is better sown in pots and sunk into the hotbed) answered the purpose best, but care must be taken to watch for the seedlings and remove it as soon as they appear, also examine the under side of the flannel to see that no seeds or plants are sticking to it. Watering must be done very carefully; it should be put on with a fine spray (like mist) whenever possible, if not, use a watering-can with a very fine rose. If watered heavily the earth gets so hard a crust on it that delicate seedlings cannot push their way through it, and either become deformed or perish in the attempt. The chill should be taken off the water before applying it. If you see signs of wilting amongst your seedlings it is time to shade them a little. This can be done by mixing whitening and water to a creamy consistency and applying a thin wash of it to the underside of the glass; this allows plenty of light to filter through and yet prevents the sun burning through the glass. It has one drawback, that when you open up your sash wide (if it is hinged at the back) for a gentle April shower (you can see your plants grow after one, there seems to be magic in every drop), your whitewash will, of course, be washed off, and it will have to be done over again, but with a wide brush it is so quickly put on that it does not much matter. Seedlings make twice as good plants if transplanted, at least once, before being put out where they are to flower. There are two good reasons for this, the first is that as a rule, the seedlings come up too close together for them to have room to develop properly, the second is that transplanting causes them to make a great deal more root growth, so that when they are finally put in their places, they are so well furnished with roots that they readily take hold of the new soil and begin a vigorous growth.

Sweet Pea Colors

Continued from last issue

"Rose and Carmine—Albert Gilbert, Lady Farren, Marie Corelli, Majorie Willis, E. J. Castle, George Herbert, John Tugman, Mrs. W. King, Paradise Carmine and Spencer Carmine.

"Salmon—Earl Spencer, Nancy Perkin and Stirling Stent.

"Salmon Flake—Magnificent and Mrs. W. J. Unwin.

"Scarlet—Doris Burt, George Stark and Scarlet Monarch.

"White—Etta Dyke, Freda, Money-maker, Nora Unwin, Paradise White, Purity, Snowflake, White Spencer and White Waved.

"Yellow and Buff (Grandiflora type)—Harold James Grieve, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. A. Malcolm, Safrano and Yellow Hammer.

"Yellow and Buff (Spencer type)—Clara Curtis Giant Cream Waved, Mrs. Miller, Paradise Cream, Primrose Paradise, Primrose Spencer, Primrose Waved, Princess Juliana and Waved Cream (Malcolm's)."

Below is the N.S.P.S.'s classification—"up-to-date"; Except where otherwise stated, the three first varieties are in order of merit. An asterisk indicates a grandiflora variety; all the others are waved:

"Bicolor—Arthur Unwin, Mrs. Andrew Ireland and Colleen.

"Blue—Flora Norton Spencer, Mrs. G. Charles and *Lord Nelson.

"Blush—Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes and Princess Victoria.

"Cerule—Cherry Ripe, Chrissie Unwin and *Coccinea.

"Cream, Buff and Ivory—Clara Curtis, Paradise Ivory and *James Grieve.

"Cream Pink—Mrs. Hugh Dickson, Gladys Burt and Constance Oliver.

"Crimson—King Edward Spencer and *King Edward VII.

"Fancy—*Sybil Eckford.

"Lavender—Masterpiece, Asta Ohn, Frank Dolby and Lady Grisel Hamilton.

"Lilac Shades—Mrs. R. H. Carrad.

"Magenta—Menie Christie.

"Marbled—Helen Pierce.

"Maroon—Nubian, Othello Spencer, Tom Bolton and *Hannah Dale.

"Mauve—Tennant Spencer, Helio Paradise and Mrs. Walter Wright.

"Orange Pink—Helen Lewis and *Miss Willmott.

"Orange Scarlet—Dazzler, Edna Unwin and St. George.

"Picotee Edged, Cream Ground—Mrs. C. W. Beardmore and Evelyn Hermes.

"Picotee Edged, White Ground—Elsie Herbert, Mrs. Townsend and *Dainty.

"Pink and Salmon Pink—Countess Spencer, Zarina and *Prima Donna.

"Rose and Carmine—John Tugman, Marie Corelli and *Prince of Wales.

"Salmon Shades—Earl Spencer, Nancy Perkin and *Henry Eckford.

"Scarlet—Doris Hunt, George Stark (1908 medal stock) and Queen Alexandra.

"Striped and Flazed (Purple and Blue)—Suffragette and *Prince Olaf.

"Striped and Flazed (Red and Rose)—America Spencer, Aurora Spencer and *Jessie Cuthbertson.

"White—Etta Dyke, Nora Unwin and *Dorothy Eckford."

In choosing varieties on this side of the water, doubtless some in the above list will not be obtainable from either Canadian or U.S. seedsmen, but with the "Too-much-alike" list to consult we will probably be able to substitute another variety that will be almost identical—which shows how useful such a list is in helping us to know what to choose, as well as what to avoid.

Flowers in British Columbia

By JULIA W. HENSHAW

AS an indication of the mild climate of British Columbia it may be stated that camellias and magnolias bloom luxuriantly in the open at the Pacific Coast, and that only during the six weeks from about January 1st to February 15th is the average garden guileless of flowers. Roses and dahlias, chrysanthemums and nasturtiums are seen until Christmas-time, and little more than a month later snowdrops and crocuses, aconites, scillas and yellow violets are found in flower. Tea roses and hybrids grow to perfection out of doors, and every kind of standard, bush and climber, red, white, pink and yellow, flourishes in profusion, for British Columbia is par excellence the land of roses.

The mild, moist climate and good natural soil at the coast render it easy to grow anything from semi-tropical plants to hardy annuals. Sweet peas are marvellously fine, and in the majority of gardens old-fashioned flowers, such as hollyhocks, columbines, poppies, marigolds, pinks and pansies find a place beside the more stately stocks, cannas, iris and pelargonium. Flowering trees and shrubs, such as arbutus, dogwood, azalea, rhododendron, lilac, laburnum and syringa grow well everywhere; garden hedges of holly, ivy and privet, and field hedges of pink dog-roses, golden broom and sweet-briar form a special feature, and the lawns are green and velvety all the year round. In the upper country, where the summer suns are extremely hot, geraniums, fuschias and verbenas and other similar plants grow even better than at the coast.—From *Woman's Life and Work*.

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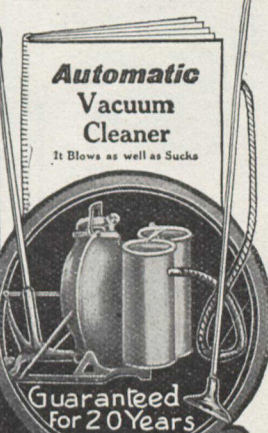
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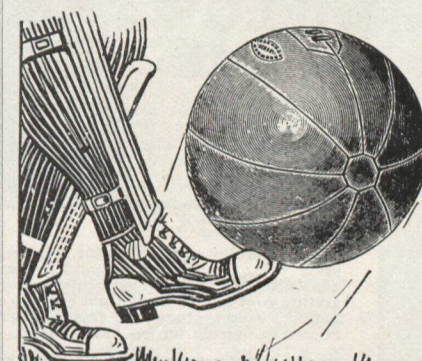
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