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Among the Flowers.

There is a large class of persons who find it very difficult to have gardens of a satisfactory nature, owing to the very general belief that a garden cannot be had unless operations can be begun early in the spring. Of course, there is no question that the very finest gardens are the permanent ones, on which operations never cease, only excepting when deep snow covers them from sight, but it is possible to have a really good garden and begin late in the spring.

Persons living in rented houses, and those who rent summer homes in the country from season to season are the persons to whom I refer. In some states the general moving day, and the one from which leases date, is April 1st, but in others, and in the majority, moving day is the first of May. In the case of persons who move to the country every summer, where they can get the best available summer home, they generally do not get settled before the middle or latter part of June, and often as late as the first of July.

The first thing is to take a survey of the new premises. It will always be the case that there are some features to be concealed, and some to be beautified and improved. The first must be considered. Is there a tumble-down fence, a rickety old building or outbuilding to cover or conceal? A neglected summer house to cover, or trellises to restore to their former state of beauty? If so, they demand the first attention. Use some of the quick-growing annual climbers, as the Wild Cucumber Vine, Cobaea Scandens, Cypress Vine, Dolichos, Morning-glory, and any of the ornamental gourds. Any of these planted as early as the first of June in very rich soil and kept freely watered will make a quick growth, and by the middle of summer make a fine showing. If the soil is not naturally of the best for these vines enrich it with one third of its bulk of well-rotted cow manure, and run the spade down deep in digging, even if some of the sub-soil comes up with it.

The next thing to consider is the matter of screening, and the making of an imitation shrubbery. If the back yard or vegetable garden is unsightly, or it is desired to cover any feature of the garden with a screen, plant rather closely (a foot apart) Ricinis, or Castor Bean. These must have soil the same as climbing vines, and in addition be well mulched as soon as the dry season arrives, and they will require a great quantity of water to stimulate them into quick growth. By mid-summer they should form a screen or hedge, or whatever shape they are planted in, six feet high, and impervious to the sight.

Of course, in the meanwhile the garden beds and borders have been laid out. One of them, in some out-of-the-way place, but in a sunny location, must be kept for a nursery bed in which to start the young seedlings, while the others will be given temporary blooming plants, to cover them while the young plants are maturing. The best plants with which to get the earliest covering bloom are the Marguerite and Dianthus Pinks.

The soil for these must be very rich and porous. Aerate it well by turning it as it is dug and raked, and at once plant it broadcast with a mixture of Marguerite and Dianthus seed, which should be lightly raked in, be well rolled or patted with a board, and then thoroughly watered with a fine nozzle spray.

In four weeks the beds should be a mass of fine fragrant blooms, a perfect riot of shades and colors, with which you will be loth to part, but they must give way to the regular bedding plants later on. The principal difference between this kind of a garden and a regular one

is that the time of planting out the bedding plants is set forward six weeks, while we use a cover crop in the meanwhile.

Prepare the nursery bed with great care. If there is help enough at hand, the soil should be all dug, mashed with the back of the spade, raked, and then sifted through a greenhouse sieve in order to get it into perfect condition, as we must force the seedlings almost as fast as in a hotbed or greenhouse. In case there should be either of these valuable adjuncts on the premises the matter of producing the bedding plants is easy, but there will be but few cases in which they will be found on rented premises, and it will pay, if possible to do so, to put up a couple of frames of glass on top of the ground after the soil is prepared.

Give the sunniest portion of the nursery bed to a small quantity of Alyssum, Little Gem, for edgings. These are rapid growers. Plant the seed rather thickly, but thin out to two inches apart when they show the third leaf, and when the plants touch thin out again. Keep them well watered. In other portions of the nursery bed plant enough of the following bedding plants, rather thickly, in order to be sure to get enough plants, but thin out as soon as they get an inch high, and stimulate by frequent soaking with water, or better still, strong liquid manure, made by soaking in a barrel of water a bushel of well-rotted horse manure.

If the beds for the annuals have no natural support, they should be edged up with sods cut thick, and wide enough so that when they are stood on their edges they will be the height of the bed above the surrounding ground. For filling the beds the following plants might be used:

Celosia.

These are the plants commonly called "coxcorns," and in the new and improved forms are one of the best bedders we have, and are quick growers. For the center of the bed use the "feathered" varieties, next the Empress, while for the outer edge use the very dwarf one, Queen of Dwarfs. The Celosia will not do well in rich soil. It likes a rather poor, limestone loam, but any ordinary garden soil that has not been recently manured will do. Plant them rather closely, as they will not make as much growth as if started earlier in the season, and in addition it is intended to make an immediate effect. Keep well cultivated, and water sparingly.

The Amaranth.

Use the Amaranth for the centers of the other beds, as they will grow to a height of three feet in a short time if given plenty of water and very rich soil. In a late garden each bed must be considered by itself, and made accordingly, rich or poor, as demanded by the particular plant grown. Use the variety Tricolor Splendens for the finest effect.

The Tuberous Begonias,

For these, plant the tubers in the nursery bed in the richest soil obtainable, loose and fine, and give plenty of sun and water. Set them out in the beds closer than usual, about eight inches apart, and keep the soil loose.

Brachycome, Cacalia, Pot Marigold and Nasturtiums.

The culture of these plants is so similar that they can be grouped together. Plant them separately in the nursery bed, and thin out or transplant as soon as the third leaf is made, keeping them growing by stimulating with plenty of water or liquid manure. Use the dwarf nasturtiums for bedding. They should be set out in the beds not more than eight inches apart in this case, in order to make an immediate show. Keep well cultivated.

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