

A NEW AND BETTER STYLE OF FLOWER BEDDING



bedding plants.

But let me tell you of something that I think will give you a deal more satisfaction and will be cheaper in the end. The best thing you can do is to have a hardy border along one or both sides of your yard. The ideal plan is to have shrubs at the back and perennial flowers in front. Shrubs cost the most at the start and the great bulk of their bloom is confined to May and June, but they are the longest lived, require the least attention and make a noble background for perennial flowers as the accompanying pictures prove.

The reasons why you don't want a geometrical flower bed are these: A bed in the middle of the lawn makes the lawn seem smaller than it really is, whereas borders frame a home picture and make the grounds seem larger than they really are. Again, tender bedding plants are likely to be stiff, gaudy, monotonous and to suggest a public park or show place instead of a quiet home. Finally, you have the same expense over again every year, or else you must keep your geraniums in the cellar over winter and take cuttings of them in the spring.

I grant you that bedding plants may give a better effect the first month or even the first year and that ordinary perennials will bloom only two weeks, whereas geraniums and cannas will flower for three months. But a hardy border has all these advantages. The plants do not have to be purchased or resown every year; they are permanent and will multiply so that you will have plenty to give away and exchange; a hardy border always has something new of interest every day, whereas bedding plants become tiresome; you can always cut flowers for your friends without spoiling the general effect; you can have them for two months before it is safe to set out bedding plants and two months after frost has killed the cannas; the cost of maintenance is less; and last, but not least, the plants harmonize with the landscape instead of being obviously imported from the market. In short, bedding plants are best in public places; a hardy border is the best thing for the home.

But, you will exclaim, "how can I start a hardy border as late as this?" Five years ago it was practically impossible to make a garden in June, or after hot weather had arrived. Now all that is changed. There is hardly any perennial flower you are likely to think of that cannot be secured from some of the nurserymen near the big cities who grow them in pots especially for summer delivery. Such plants may cost a little more than the field-grown, and they ought to, because they have required more care. Besides, you could not plant field-grown plants in June, whereas pot-grown plants will grow right ahead and bloom this year.

One reason for this new opportunity is that the automobile brings more people to the nurseries than ever before. It is the fashionable thing now to visit nurseries after the spring rush is over. The nurseryman has nothing to do then and is glad enough to have visitors. And in floriculture it is a fact, as with many other luxuries, that the supply often creates the demand. You may read about a plant every year in the catalogues for ten years, without being tempted, but when you see how beautiful the real thing is you buy it on the spot. It is a common thing for people to see something they need at their summer home and take the plant right back with them in their motor car. When you come to think of it, this sort of thing should always have been so. We ought to be able to get any plant we want at any time. It is a sign that we are growing up. Of course, it would be foolish to buy now the April or May blooming species, such as columbines and German iris, and I should not get any peonies now because they can be better planted in September. For this year's effects I should say the best choice would be as follows:

For June, foxgloves, Sweet Williams and *Coronopsis lanceolata*.

For July, larkspurs, hollyhocks, and Japanese iris.

For August, phlox, veronica, Stokesia, and yucca.

For September, Japanese anemone, graceful sunflower (*Helianthus argyris*) and sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*, var. *superbum*).

For October and November, pompon chrysanthemums.

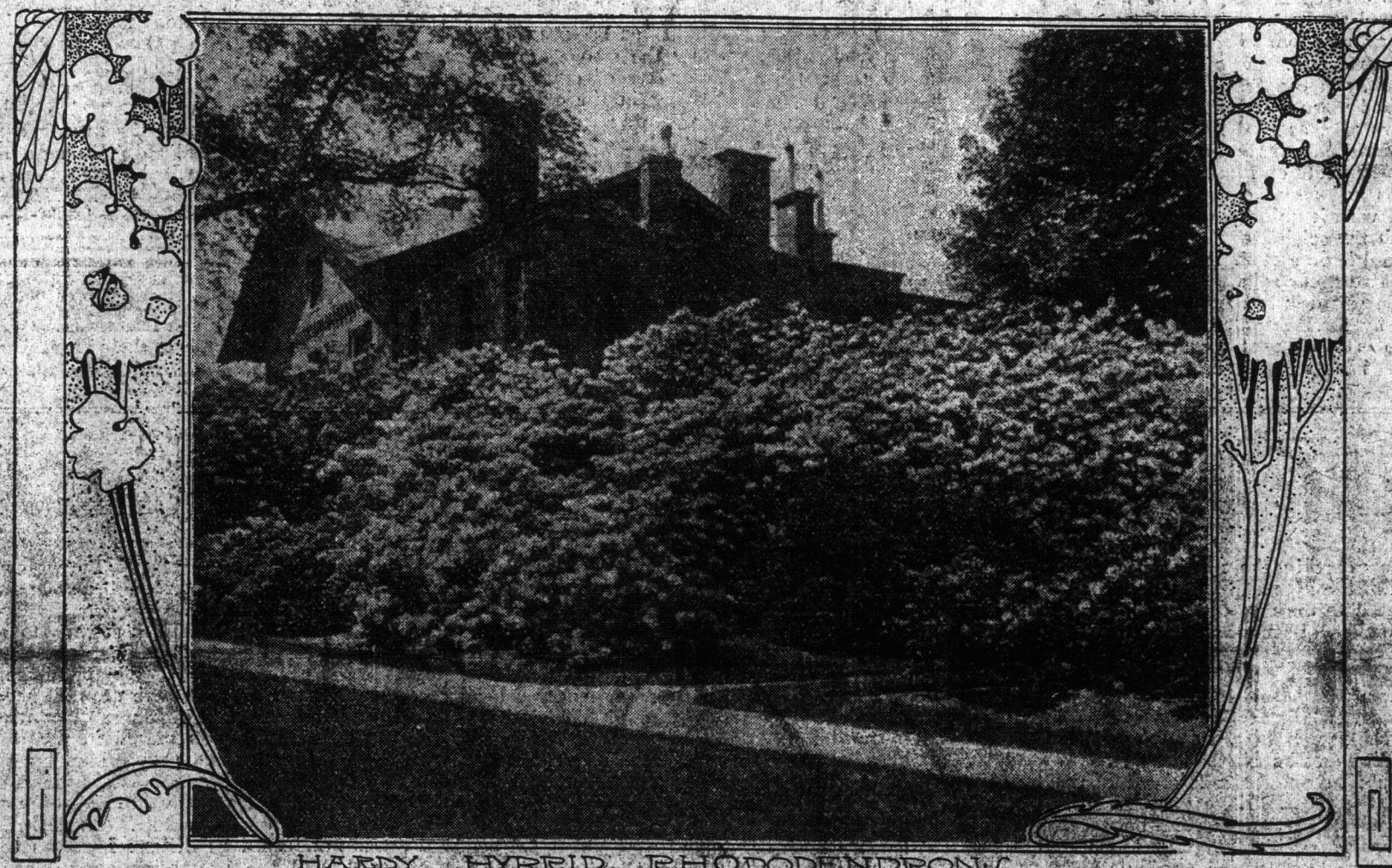
So far I have been contrasting the flower bed with the hardy border. Now I want to show how the exacting requirements of bedding can be met by certain hardy perennials which will give more refreshing and dignified effect than tender plants and at less loss.

First, take the hardest case of all—the formal garden where neatness is supreme and plants must be constantly on dress parade. Flowers borne in spikes are necessarily formal and, therefore, appropriate to formal gardens. Moreover they suggest aspiration and are, therefore, more desirable than flowers that

merely suggest display. Their spires recall those of a church and the blue upward-pointing larkspurs or veronicas take one's thoughts insensibly to the skies.

There are two practical difficulties, however, about such flowers in a formal garden. Some of them get unsightly at the base of the spike before the top buds open and others are not attractive when out of flower. Both these objections apply somewhat to foxgloves, which have rather coarse, weedy leaves; drop their blossoms untidily and are unsightly when going to seed. Other flowers that fall by this standard are asphodels and the cardinal flower. But no such objection can be made to larkspurs, veronicas, torch lilies (wherever it is safe to leave them in the ground all winter), the obedient plant (*Physostegia virginica*), or the snakeroots (*Cimicifuga racemosa* and *lapponica*), all of which are spicate flowers, breathing the very spirit of aspiration. For all of them possess that decorative quality when out of bloom which is so essential in a formal garden and all of them bloom a month or more, or else yield a fair second crop if cut back after blooming and given plenty of food and water.

I would not advocate using hardy plants exclusively in a formal garden, but in every



HARDY HYBRID RHODODENDRON

HARDY WINTER FLOWERS

It cannot be generally known that several shrubs and small trees bloom during the winter months, for they are so seldom seen. This is to be regretted, as they are not only beautiful, flowering, too, with a freedom, one associates with the high summer days—but in several cases, exceptionally fragrant. A walk round an interesting garden recently, in which winter-flowering shrubs are planted with no niggardly hand, brought to mind the importance of these kinds in the garden at this season. There, in a sunny corner, was the Tree Witch, Hazel (*Hamamelis arborea*), which is the most beautiful of its family. It may be regarded as a small tree, seldom growing more than 8 feet high, though in its native land of China it attains larger dimensions in every way. The flowers are golden yellow in color, and consist of several curling petals with crimson calyces, which seem to shine in the winter sun. These crowd on the leafless shoots and give a fresh beauty and interest to the garden in January. The way to obtain the full value of the shrub is to plant it in a group, say of six plants, with the little Partridge Berry (*Gaultheria procumbens*) as a ground-work, the latter a little evergreen shrub, crimson almost with fruit for many weeks. There are other Witch Hazels, but *H. arborea* should be chosen before the others. *H. japonica* zuccariniana flowers quite as freely, but does not produce so rich an effect; this also blooms in winter, and the pale yellow coloring is charming. The Witch Hazels are easily grown, needing no special soil, but shelter and sunshine are necessary, not from any want of hardiness, but to give the flowers as much chance as possible at this uncertain season of the year.

The Winter Heath (*Erica carnea*)—Why this exquisite Heath is not as common in gardens as the Christmas Rose itself is a mystery. It is thick with crimson flowers for many weeks in winter, and gives a warm glow to the garden when planted in groups. A group of fifty plants and they are not expensive—produces an effect that is in pleasant harmony with the greys and browns of the surrounding woodland. The writer planted a group consisting of this number of tufts in a rough meadow land, and no feature of the garden—even the Roses rippling over Oak fences and pergola—gave greater delight. It is mentioned in "Trees and Shrubs for English Gardens" that of all the dwarf Heaths more can be said in favor of *E. carnea* than of any other kind. "It is not only absolutely hardy, but it flowers

We need to take a lesson from Highland Park at Rochester, N. Y., which shows us how to make a shrubby collection interesting when the shrubs are out of bloom. Here you find no mixed borders of perennials, but great beds of perennials like the foxgloves, and the yuccas and Stokesias—only one kind of flower in a place and enough of it to fill the eye. There is not a dull rod in the entire collection, for as you walk down those green alleys between the families of shrubs, a slight turn is always bringing a new picture in sight. The great part of each picture is greenery rather than flowers, as it always ought to be, but whenever the shrubs themselves do not present a note of color by their flowers, you may be sure that Mr. Deane has provided the necessary accent by means of a bed of some one noble flower with a permanence that comports with that of shrubbery.

To sum up: A hardy border is better for a home than beds of tender plants; a formal garden should be dominated by hardy perennials; and the best bedding effects in genuine landscape work are made with hardy perennials, rather than annuals, or tender plants. Finally, hardy plants can now be had from pots any day during the summer.—Henry Maxwell in Garden Magazine.

with astonishing freedom at a time of year when flowers are particularly cherished. Its flowering, of course, somewhat depends upon the weather, but frequently one may see its bright rosy bells almost as soon as January comes in. By the end of February, the entire plant is a mass of beautiful color, and for two or three months longer they retain their freshness, no matter what weather may occur. So free-flowering is this Heath that its flowers literally cover it. However freely it might be planted it would never become wearisome or out of place for its tints, though bright and warm, are not harsh.

Winter-flowering Honeysuckles (*Lonicera Standishi* and *L. fragrantissima*) have not the rambling growth of the Honeysuckle of the hedgerow, but are usually grown against a wall. We well remember wandering in a garden one bright winter day and wondering where the rich Honeysuckle-like fragrance came from. The plant was then unknown to us, but *Lonicera fragrantissima* was breathing forth sweet incense. From that moment it became one of our most cherished flower friends. The plant was growing in a sunny recess near the dining-room, so that the perfume when the window was open could float into the house.

It would be found to be sweet scented. At the same time it is possible to grow Mignonette that will have a good perfume in winter, but it must be in districts where the atmosphere is clear, and the plants must be close up to the glass, where there is little heat and plenty of air. We have seen Mignonette beautifully flowered and very fragrant at Christmas time, the variety being that originally known as the French giant Mignonette, and from this improved varieties were selected until we had Parson's White, which was undoubtedly one of the sweetest grown. Then when the dwarf red variety came into favour Vilmorin's grandiflora was one of the best. Careful selections of this were very sweet. Later on we had Machet, which, perhaps, flowers better and is easier to grow for winter than any other, yet it has very little, if any, scent until we get bright weather, and when we first flowered it we were much disappointed, and inclined to discard it altogether. Later on, when we had bright sunny weather, it proved to be sweet-scented, but perhaps not quite so powerful as some other varieties. Mignonette can seldom be flowered successfully near London or any other district where fogs prevail. Good growth may be secured and the flower spikes may show, but the flowers do not develop. In winter time Mignonette must be kept fairly dry, and very little manure given. Light and air, with just sufficient warmth to keep out frost, are necessary.

In regard to growing Mignonette for winter flowering seed may be sown early in July. We have succeeded best when sowing in the pots that it is to flower in, giving good drainage and giving some soot with the drainage material, the compost consisting of good loam, with manure and some old mortar rubbish mixed with it, and the pots filled very firmly to within about half an inch, the surface made level with a little fine soil. The seeds should be sown thinly and covered with soil to which sand is added. Level this over and press down, using a fine-rosed watering-pot to give just sufficient water to set the surface, and later more, never letting the surface get quite dry until after the seedlings are through. The thinning out should be done as soon as the seed leaves are well developed. Shading is given during the early stages, but after the seedlings are well established give full exposure to the sun and careful attention to watering; this secures short, sturdy growth. During the early stages they are grown on in a cold frame, leaving the lights off when the weather is favorable. Early in September remove the pots to the greenhouse and place them as close to the glass as possible, but should the weather be very bright and warm they may remain in the frame later; careful watering is a great secret. If the plants show signs of weakness manure is given, but for autumn it is found better to avoid over-rigorous growth, while for late spring flowering manure may be used liberally.

ROOT MAGGOTS

Some years ago I read an article in which it was said that deep planting of onions was a cure for maggots. As I planted quite a lot of multipliers, I tried different depths, and found that deep planted ones were worse than those on the surface. This gave me the idea of planting on ridges.

The following two years I ridged all my ground, and put the sets on top. At the first hoeing, I pulled the soil away from the bulb, and never saw the sign of a maggot. The next year I planted in the level again, and fully two-thirds were attacked by maggots. I pulled the soil away from them, clean to the roots, and, as soon as the bulb got good and dry, the maggots disappeared from the onion patch, only to attack my cabbages and cauliflowers. They attacked these even more vigorously, sometimes making a clean sweep of the rows, and I thought that I would have to quit early growing.

I tried everything that I could hear of, until one of my neighbors told me that he knew of an old man who always put a match in with the plants when he put them in the ground. As I could not procure any of the old sulphur matches, I made up my mind to try the sulphur alone, and was rewarded for my trouble by not a single cabbage or cauliflower, around which sulphur was placed being attacked. Put the sulphur close to the stem. One teaspoonful is enough for one hundred plants.—Edward Lane.

FLORAL NOTES

Yucca, being a semitropical growth, though quite hardy as far north as northern New York, in its commoner forms, requires a place where it will have sun practically all day long. Give it room, for new growths come from it. By cutting sweet william back a little after the first bloom, it is generally possible to coax a second bloom.

Annual poppies need a good deal of moisture. They thrive best in a damp climate. The Shirley variety is the most satisfactory.

If the bloom obtained from the dahlias is not good as it should be, dig a richer soil in around them, and allow only one stalk to grow from each tuber. Crowd the water on them.

Be sure to provide stakes for both dahlias and golden glow at an early stage of growth. They break easily in high winds.

Never let the blossoms on spiraea Anthony Waterer fade on the shrub. It will check the bloom at once. Cut the blossoms each day as they appear and the bush will remain in glorious bloom till frost, and sometimes till the snow flies.

THE MOST FRAGRANT MIGNONETTE

While there is certainly some preference with regard to the scent of the various varieties, climate and other conditions of culture have more to do with the matter. We think it the same variety which appears to have no scent now were flowering in May and June it