

## RURAL AND SUBURBAN

## HARDY BORDERS

There are three different ways of having a lot of flowers. One is to grow annual flowers. This plan costs the least at the start, because a packet of seed costs only five cents, but you have all the trouble of raising your plants again every year; none of them blooms before July, and annuals do not have the permanence and dignity of perennial flowers.

The second way is to use tender bedding plants, such as geraniums and cannas. These will undoubtedly bloom longer than other flowers, and they are also the showiest, but they are expensive, and you must either keep them over the winter in the cellar and then take cuttings from them or buy plants from a florist every year. This style of gardening is often gaudy, monotonous and inartistic.

The third and best plan is to have a hardy border of perennial flowers. It costs as much as bedding plants at the start, and you do not get the best effect the first year, but the plants are permanent and multiply with little care, so that you have plenty to give away and exchange. You have flowers a month before bedding plants can be set out and a month after the frost has killed the geraniums. Moreover, a border is more interesting than a flower bed, because there are new flowers coming on all the time, while a bed of geraniums gets monotonous. Finally, it is cheaper in the end than either of the other plans. It is also simpler and more artistic.

It is all well enough to have a straight border if you have a straight walk that ought to be lined with flowers, but the best kind of border for the greatest number is the one with irregular outlines. You want bold capes and deep bays in your border to make your place seem larger than it really is and in order to give a series of dainty little pictures instead of one long, monotonous sweep.

No day laborer can ever lay out such a border for you. He can never comprehend the viewpoint of anybody who wants anything different from straight lines, circles, hearts, crescents and lozenges. But any person of taste can lay out a border as well as a landscape gardener. Just march out with some stakes and a long line and mark it out the way it ought to be. You will change the lines somewhat after viewing the curves from the sidewalk, front porch and dining room window.

The next thing is to plan your masses, and this is where almost every beginner makes a fundamental mistake by thinking first of variety instead of bold, single effects. If you order one each of fifty different kinds of plants, expecting to work up a stock of the best things, you will get no effect at all the first year and a lot of plants will die, because you cannot learn how to grow fifty kinds of plants in one year. Besides, it isn't artistic to put three columbines here and about twenty feet further on three more columbines, and so on. That is called "dotting" and "repeating," and it invariably produces a weak, spotty and distracting effect.

The right way is to glorify the whole month of May by having a gorgeous mass of German iris. In June you want a big colony of peonies to dominate the border. July will be a month to look forward to if you have two dozen larkspurs ready to lift their azure spires toward the sky. In August your border ought to be a blaze of beauty, because you have fifty plants of phlox. In September, Japan anemone ought to queen it over the border, and in October chrysanthemums ought to own the town.

In other words, you want few kinds and big masses of them, or you cannot get simple, strong, splendid effects. You do not want more than two big masses in a month, one for the first half and one for the second. You want about twelve masses altogether, two for each of the six best months. Then make a diagram of your border and assign each one of these twelve masses its place. Order not less than a dozen plants of each kind. After that you can fill in with a few of as many kinds as you like in order to have bloom during the odd months, like March, April and November, and in order to have variety all the time.

For instance, for your May mass effects select two from this list: Columbine, bleeding heart, German iris, lily of the valley.

For your June masses, select two of these: Peony, foxglove, coreopsis, sweetwilliam.

For your two July heroes choose between Japan iris, hollyhocks and larkspurs.

In August, phlox is supreme, but if you want a foil for it you can get it in Veronica longifolia, var. subsessilis, in Stokesia (a blue flower) or the marshmallow.

The best flowers of September are the Japanese anemone, sneezeweed and Helianthus orgyalis, unless you count the early chrysanthemums, but I prefer the late varieties of them

because we have no other flowers of importance in October and November.

The Oriental poppies are the biggest of the poppy tribe that the ordinary person can grow. They are gorgeous, blood-red flowers four or five inches across in July. The best time to plant them is in August, because they rest after flowering and often die down to the ground then. But they will come up again next spring.

Perennial phlox has more varieties than any other hardy plant except the peony. It has big tresses of flowers and a good many of the colors are too loud. In full sunshine the crimson, purples and magentas are harsh and garish, but as dusk approaches they become delicate and lovely. At the same time the flowers begin to breathe forth a tender fragrance. Phlox will give two crops of flowers if cut back after the first bloom, but you must feed the plants well then and see that they have plenty of water.

The perennial candytuft is a more dignified plant than the annual kind you see in every garden. That is rather trifling. The perennial species has evergreen foliage, and therefore makes a pretty ground cover. It is very pleasant to come upon a carpet of lusty green leaves in the intervals between snowstorms.

Hollyhocks are the best tall perennials, but they are almost sure to be afflicted with rust. The only thing to do is to keep the leaves covered with ammoniacal carbonate of copper from the time they appear in spring until the flowers are gone. This sounds very technical, but what you want to do is to go to a drug store now and get three ounces of copper carbonate. Put this in a quart of ammonia and shake it until it is all dissolved. Dilute this at the rate of twenty-five gallons of water before using. You can spray this on your hollyhocks with a whisk broom, and the same material is good for any kind of rust, blight, spot, smut, or other fungous diseases.

It costs a little more than Bordeaux mixture, but not enough for the amateur to consider. Nothing will cure plant diseases. Spraying is only a preventive. If you cover your garden plants with a thin armor of copper carbonate no germs can enter the plants.

If your hollyhocks are already diseased, buy five cents worth of permanganate of potash and spray to the diseased spots with a brush, not a spray, as you must be careful to touch only the diseased spots.

Of all the hardy flowers I believe I love best the Japanese iris. They are by far the largest irises, having flowers that are regularly five or six inches across. It is not at all uncommon to get nine inch flowers, and I have seen them a foot in diameter. They have a big range of color—from white, through lavender and pink, to dark purple and mahogany reds. There are also some fair blues, but no pure yellow or scarlet.

The only way I can explain why they are not more popular is that it is almost impossible to convince anybody that such gorgeous flowers will grow in an ordinary garden. Yet they are as hardy as apple trees, and as easy to grow as potatoes. People persist in thinking that they have to be grown in wet places, and the fact that the Japanese grow them in the rice fields helps spread this delusion. But nobody hears the other half of the story, which is that the rice fields are drained dry in winter, and that the Japan iris does not like wet feet in winter any more than any other decent plant. You can get these from any nurseryman nowadays, and I hope you will try some of them next spring.

## MAKING A ROSE BED

The choice of roses will depend largely upon individual taste, a rose that may seem to possess all the desirable attributes of beauty to one may entirely fail to appeal to another, so greatly do we differ in taste, but there are

certain roses that have become so well established in popular favor as to make their selection a matter of course even in a quite limited list.

The bed which is to receive the roses should be prepared some time in advance of the time in which the plants are to be planted, that it may have time to become settled. It should be composed of good garden loam, clay and old well-rotted manure in generous quantity, as it is almost impossible to make the soil too rich for roses. Where no clay exists naturally in the soil it should be added, but in adding it it must be thoroughly pulverized and thoroughly incorporated with the soil.

Long narrow beds are more desirable for tea roses or other summer bloomers than large or round beds, as it is necessary to give the plants an amount of attention impossible in beds too large to reach across.

Early in the spring, before the first buds have opened, the various enemies of the rose will begin to appear. Probably the first of these will be the ubiquitous green louse or aphid, these come in such sudden and apparently inexhaustible quantities that they threaten to annihilate the plants, leaf and stem. Tobacco in some of its forms is the universal panacea for this ill; it is, however, somewhat difficult to apply on plants in the open except in the form of tea, which may be sprayed on the plant with a plant syringe, or with a gun; smoke is much more effectual but difficult to apply. Where the plants are small, a frame may be constructed to fit over all or a part of the bed; this may be of light wood covered with canvas or thin cloth; it should have an opening in one side and a small box large enough to receive the pan of coals and tobacco stems should be provided to fit into or against this opening; this allows the smoke to enter the frame while keeping the heat of the burning tobacco from the plants. The frame should remain over the plant a quarter of an hour at least, and the stems of tobacco should be wet before placing over the coals, that they may produce a dense smoke and not a blaze.

One of the most satisfactory insecticides is found in a simple bath of hot water, used either as a spray or as a bath. It is entirely safe on hard wooded plants like roses, and has the advantage of not only killing all insect life, even the pestiferous red spider, but of leaving the plant in a healthy, clean condition. When used as a bath the whole plant should be immersed for two or three minutes, and the water may be used at a temperature of about 135 degrees; when used as a spray in the open air it may be increased to 145 or 150 degrees without harm. Kerosene emulsion is fatal to all insect life that is not protected with a hard shell, hence is effectual when applied for red spider, green lice, thrips, mealy bugs and the like, but for the disgusting little green caterpillar there is no remedy so effectual as to go over the bushes and pinch the leaf in which he has taken refuge between a determined thumb and finger.

For the rose beetle or bug one must resort to Paris green, as they cannily refuse to keep still and take their medicine. If Paris green is mixed with lime in the proportion of a teaspoonful to a quart of plaster and lightly sifted over the bushes at evening when the plants are wet with dew, it will adhere and may be washed off in the morning after it has done its work. In using Paris green or other poison on roses the precaution should always be taken to label the plants plainly to that effect, as many persons have a penchant for eating rose leaves, which makes the use of poison very dangerous.

The small-sized roses should be set one foot apart in the beds, and the two-year-olds from eighteen inches to two feet, according to size. They should be set about the depth at which they grew in the pots or ground. Cultivation of the beds should begin at once; no

weeds should be allowed to gain a foothold, but should be immediately eradicated.

During dry periods the beds should not be allowed to dry out, the evaporation of moisture from the wet soil under the influence of a hot sun produces much the same atmosphere as that they enjoyed in the greenhouse and results in magnificent bloom. In wet weather less water will be needed but more cultivation, and the ground must be frequently stirred that it may not become sour or musty. In hot, muggy weather it is better to water early in the even, or so that the foliage shall have time to dry off before dark, as there will then be less danger of mildew—a prevalent trouble with the tea rose.

Frequent doses of liquid manure will be needed by the rose beds if notable blooms are to be produced. This may be prepared by filling a kerosene barrel with manure, first placing a spigot in one side near the bottom and placing an armful of straw in the bottom of the barrel—enough to come up above the end of the spigot and act as a filter. The barrel should then be filled with water, and will be ready for use almost at once; this may be drawn off and applied to the rose bed twice a week through the season.

## Horticultural Potpourri

## Old Favorites and Late Productions—Hints for the Amateur

**Three Good Flowering Trees.**—A list of the best trees to plant in gardens and parks for floral effect would comprise at least a score of about equal claims, and, one might easily add, a second score almost as good. Early in the year the plums, pears, almonds and cherries are fine features in places where they have been planted in quantity and with nice judgment. These are followed by a crowd in which three are conspicuous, namely, the horse-chestnut, the laburnum and the judas tree. Everybody knows the common horse-chestnut, the pride of so many parks, public and private, but the red flowered one is in many parts a rare tree. And yet it is just as much at home in this country as any other North American tree. We are aware that some authorities believe this tree is of garden origin. It has various names, all indicating the red color of its flowers, viz., rubicunda, carnea, rosea coccinea, and these are forms of it, but the best has rosy scarlet flowers and is a magnificent object when seen in the shape of a big tree covered with bloom in May or June. The laburnum needs no advertising; one sees it in most gardens, but the best forms of it require to be better known—these being Waterer's—undoubtedly the finest of them all as regards length of raceme, depth of flower, color, and substance—Parks' and pendulum elegans. Laburnums are always most effective when planted in a group with a background of big trees, such as beeches, or better still, pines. They like a good, well-drained soil, preferably with a flavor of lime in it. The third tree that we have in mind, namely, cercis or judas tree, is coming on in popularity, and when it becomes better known it will be largely planted. Its kidney-shaped leaves and clusters of bright purple pea-shaped flowers crowding the branches at this time of year never fail to attract attention and often give rise to the question "is it a new tree?"

**Cut Flowers Kept Fresh.**—Those who wish to make their cut flowers last the longest, so that they can get the most pleasure out of them, should be careful to prevent their losing extra attention in order to prevent their losing their beauty too soon. This is especially desirable during the winter, where flowers have to be bought at a high price from a florist, or some patient home-grower has spent much

time and care in bringing her plants into bloom.

The simplest way to keep blossoms fresh: see that the ends of the stems are cut with a sharp knife in a clean, even cut, and to clip off a little more from the ends of each just before giving the flowers fresh water every morning. Do not let the flowers be too crowded in the vase and keep them if possible where they will not be in direct sunshine, nor too near the heat from the register or radiator.

At night set the vase containing the flowers in a vessel of water and place in a cool place. Some persons take the flowers from the vase and put in bowls of water where the stems will be covered nearly to the blossom, and cover with newspapers and set out on the window-sill, unless it should be cold enough to freeze the blossoms, when they are placed inside a cool place.

**Styrax Japonica.**—The beautiful shrub or small tree, Styrax Japonica, blooms in June. It is a native of China and Japan, from where we get, and have got, many beautiful and valuable plants. This is not by any means the least valuable, where it proves to be hardy. Styrax Japonica is a handsome shrub of very graceful habit. It is the hardiest of its class; and no doubt it will be a surprise to many to know that this very beautiful plant thrives, perhaps, better in this locality than in Japan. I believe that it will thrive still further north than Niagara Falls—it should get a fair trial anyway. The best authority in the United States says that it is hardy as far north as Massachusetts in sheltered situations.

The buds, before they open, resemble very much a white fuchsia bell in form. They are a beautiful waxy white color when open, except the stamens, which are yellow. The flowers are very fragrant, of a pleasing spicy nature. I have few plants in the park that call for more praise from me than Styrax Japonica.

**Bulbs and Summer Bedding.**—The lateness of the spring caused the various bedding bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to be slow to come to maturity, and where they have to be dug up to make way for summer bedding plants there is a risk of doing this before they are ready. It is better to defer the planting of the summer geranium, heliotrope, verbenas, lobelia, etc., for a week or two, so as to allow the bulbs to mature before taking them out of the soil. We have even known careful gardeners to plant their geraniums, etc., among the bulbs and to dig up the latter some weeks later, thus allowing them plenty of time to ripen. In some gardens it is the custom to provide a fresh supply of bulbs annually, the cost of which is considered to be more than outweighed by the labor and worry of digging them up carefully and harvesting them. But in many gardens it is desirable that such bulbs as may be kept from year to year should be saved, and when the seasons are normal this can be done without much trouble; it is only when winter runs into spring, thus holding the bulbs in check, that the gardener is bothered when summer plants demand his attention. The last week in May is the recognized time for planting out summer bedding stuff, and if this cannot conveniently be done, work in other departments is apt to get disorganized. There is one way of getting over this difficulty, namely, lifting the bulbs with some soil attached to their roots and healing them into a border against a west or north wall where the process of ripening may to some extent be continued. When the leaves have faded, the bulbs should be taken out of the soil, cleaned, and laid out in a dry, sunny place to thoroughly ripen. We have kept daffodils, tulips, crocuses and even hyacinths from year to year in this way. To dig the bulbs up before the leaves have started to change color and then to dry them off quickly is pretty certain to spoil them for another year.

## HORTICULTURAL NOTES

There are so many qualities to look out for in seedling fruits, size, color, firmness, productivity, season and healthfulness of foliage, that one needs to test seedlings for at least two years before he feels that he can judge fairly of the results and merits.

The apple louse has five to eight generations in one season, and if a bird eats one egg, it means a big reduction by the end of the year. It is well known that birds like cut-worms, army worms and similar pests, and when they can get them prefer them to any other food. The fruit destroyed by birds is small compared with what is saved by them as the result of their devouring by thousands the special enemies of fruit.



lucky by such associations to get censored play. For it means a full increased subscription list, for, of charge can be made for tickets, directly! The newly formed Civic Guild is therefore to be congratulated on securing such an attractive bait for its performance as an unlicensed

There are a hundred and one arguments for the continuance of the office of censor. The prohibition of "Press Censor," however, one of the few strong points. True, nearly every political speech of the day is held up to philosophic and prominent people are "hidden but not there is no more malice or in the satire than one would find in of "Punch" or the cartoons of the "Gazette." In short, none at all, are certainly weak and silly, but they are for the scorn of the censor, not the Censor. If general publication "Press Cuttings" on the score of allusions, why are some of the verses of pantomime songs allowed? He distorts his names more or less unmercifully as "Mr. Balsquith" and "General"—whereas the musical comedies a Cabinet Minister without disfigure or party. Needless to say, "cuttings" is not a drama, but merely a conversation between representatives of the different subjects Mr. Shaw "get at." Thus we have "Big and Sanders," strong and weak Navyites, and "Antis." In the piece London partial law owing to the "Suffragettes for Women" is being shouted at. To General Mitchener, Minister dragged a "woman" who has been chained to the bootscraper. In his presence "get"—as Mr. Shaw spells it—takes skirt and discloses Mr. Balsquith, Minister. He obtained his disguise in little exhibition we are having in street." But it is not a French dress, it is labelled "Made in Camberley" only logic conclusion one can draw after hearing the piece is that taking the more fun is made of the Government of the Opposition, and the Censor, others, has his post to keep.

## FORTHCOMING BOOK

Shackleton promises to publish his adventures next November, and it will provide more exciting and reading than has been given us in time back. We should not allow to forget, however, what an amount of good writing of this kind our tongue. The English language is richer than any other in the literature and discovery, and the excitement it possesses is almost entirely in the presence or absence of training in the men who wrote it. Scott in his book on the Discovery contests his lack of skill in writing, and Dampier's voyages were put on men who were little accustomed to penwork apt their writing may appear shorter narratives which go to great collections—Hakluyt, Purchas, and the like—were written in most by the explorers themselves or by learned—but not necessarily very of the ship's company. Yet these are, ever since they were published, one of the best examples of a beautiful English style. Passages like that which tells of the death of Grey Gilbert, or that by Raleigh on the hands of the Revenge, have found their original setting, and attained of immortality which only the passage of an anthology can give. The literary excellence of these "Traffics and Discoveries," which named his collection, is twofold: it places the original authors profited of their editors (as others since) and had their irrelevances and their extravagances confined within. To see how far the voyagers profited is kindly correction the curious have look at the original narratives as printed in the nineteenth century by the Hakluyt and the abridged versions in Hakluyt's "The Elizabethan explorer common-story with a reference to the opinion of the fundamental truths of and generally decorated the course of same manner. His editor ruthlessly all these additions, and if his attitude sympathetic it certainly vastly improved. But it has also to be remembered that the great style of these writers to their subject more than anything man has to tell of great deeds and of his writes better than he could quite unconsciously sheds common and sham ornament just as common of their vulgarities and their petty and, and talk simply, plainly, and with which is strange to their daily life, subject will always more than half

is no blot for us, it means intensely, and means meaning is my meat and drink. —Browning.