

## An Unappreciated Flower

By Mrs. Annie L. Jack, Chateaugay Basin, Que.

A good many years ago the editor of The Rural New Yorker gave me seed of Pyrethrum that he valued very much as a perennial. In spite of ill usage and overgrowth of shrubs near by, so tenacious are they that plants from this seed continue to blossom, and give their flowers in June in profusion. But the newer varieties, and careful treatment, have been a revelation to me, for they are perfectly hardy and invaluable for cut flowers, while greatly improved in texture and shades. Nearly every year sees some new development, the result of skilful raising, and they have the advantage of growing well in shaded places, if the soil is kept fertile.

The pyrethrum grows in any good garden soil, though a rich loam is preferred in order to secure size and brilliance of bloom. The flowers are bright and showy, and being borne on long stems are very suitable for vase decoration, while the foliage is finely cut and deep green. The beautiful double varieties that have been developed of late years remind one of a chrysanthemum, and they are at their best blooming during the months of May and June. As they require no winter protection, and if cut down in June, and kept watered, will make new growth and blossom again in autumn, they are sometimes called the "poor man's chrysanthemum."

Surface rooting plants, and liable to be injured by hot sun, they are materially aided by a mulch of anything that tends to conserve moisture. In early spring the plants may be propagated by dividing into small pieces and planting out in prepared soil, or if grown from seed will give plants that will flower the following year, but from this method the quality and color cannot be depended upon.

Among named double varieties for the amateur who cares only for a small collection of the best we have "Aphrodite," pure white; "Lord Rosebery," carmine scarlet, a most dazzling color; "Magician," bright pink—yellow tipped; "Regulus," purple carmine, and "Solfaterre," a creamy yellow.

Of single sorts, sometimes called "colored Marguerites," there is "Lord Milner," a cherry rose color; "Langport," scarlet; "Decoration," a flesh pink; "Devonshire Cream," as its name would indicate, is a rich cream color; while "Princess Marie," "Gwendoline," and many others are pure white. In fact among a hundred varieties now advertised, it is difficult to select the best half dozen for a limited border, but good seed will increase the variety of coloring and give some choice sorts.

The flowers of the pyrethrum will stand storm and shade better than many other perennials, as the stems are stiff

and yet wiry, but as a safeguard a mulch in summer and a covering of coarse manure after hard frost in late autumn, will ensure against sudden changes of temperature so detrimental to our perennials in this climate.

If planted in a border among other tall growing herbaceous plants, the pyrethrum does well near the front, placed at even distances, and in this way, when the flowering season is over, it can be trimmed off, and even if not giving a second supply of bloom there is a neat elegance in the finely cut foliage.

## Tulips From Seed

Can tulips be grown from seed to advantage, and if so, when is the best time to use the seeds? I have some fine seed pods saved from my best purple, tall growing stalk. I had some nearly three feet high, far above all other sorts. Would a new kind be apt to spring from the seed?—H. L.

Tulips can be grown from seed, but not to advantage, as our climate here is not suitable for the propagation of the tulip, either from seeds or offsets. Tulips grown from seed usually give some variation in color or habit from the original type. It is not wise to allow tulips to seed. The seed head should be cut off as soon as the blooms have dropped. Allowing them to produce seed weakens the bulb.—Wm. Hunt.

## Fall Care of Evergreen Plants

Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

About the middle or end of September, according to weather conditions, evergreen plants, such as Japanese Euonymus, Oleander, Aucuba Japonica, Myrtle and Bay trees, may be stood under the shelter of a verandah or under trees, or in an open shed. The early white frosts do not injure these plants, as they are almost hardy in their nature. By giving them the shelter mentioned, it is quite possible to keep them out of their winter quarters until quite late in the fall, thus giving the growth a chance to harden—a very necessary matter in the successful wintering over of these plants. Do not hurry them into their winter quarters too early, and do not go to the other extreme and expose them to more than five or six degrees of frost without some slight protection.

These plants are very largely used in Holland, Belgium, Germany, and other countries, for temporary outdoor decorative purposes in summer. Deep pits, or greenhouse pits, are sometimes built expressly to keep these plants in during winter, and are usually built without facilities for artificial heating, as only a few inches of the structure, beyond the covering of glass and boards, is exposed above the ground level. This part of the structure is covered with thick mats in severe weather. A structure of this kind

with provision for temporary heating to suit our more rigorous climate could easily be made where a collection of these plants are grown, as they occupy a lot of useful space in an ordinary greenhouse.

It is not generally known that the growth of the Oleander is of a very poisonous nature. Great care should be taken to prevent any person from eating the leaves or growth of the plant. This objectionable feature detracts from the value of this popular decorative plant.

## Trouble With Hydrangea

Last spring I had a present of a very fine house hydrangea which was covered with bloom. In two or three weeks it began to wilt and all the bloom dropped off. Was it for the want of more water, or more fresh air? We kept it in the parlor after the bloom fell off, and then I planted it out in the garden. The plant seems quite healthy now. I have repotted it. Please say how to keep it through the winter so that it will bloom in the spring.—W. E., Toronto, Ont.

The house or pot hydrangea is of a half-hardy nature, and should be kept partially dormant during the winter. The plant mentioned should be kept out of doors during nice weather until there may be possibly five or six degrees of frost. It should then be taken into the cellar or into a cool room in the house, temperature 40 to 45 degrees, and kept there during the winter. If the cellar is dry, it may require two or three slight waterings during the winter. The soil should never get dust dry. The top growth should be sprayed or sprinkled with water about every two weeks to keep it fresh. I have known some people to wrap the top of the plants slightly with burlap and sprinkle the burlap occasionally. This sprinkling is to keep the growth from shrivelling or drying up. I am inclined to think that the cause of the plant you mention dropping its flowers and foliage was due to gas fumes or to the dry atmosphere of the house.—Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

## Hollyhock Leaves

Can you tell me what to use to prevent the leaves of hollyhocks drying and falling off?—W. B., Windsor, Ont.

The plants mentioned are probably attacked with what is known as the Hollyhock Disease. The disease is of a fungus nature (*Puccinia malvacearum*). The best remedy or preventive is to spray the plants early in the season with Bordeaux mixture the same as used on potatoes. As a preventive all diseased leaves should be picked off and burned, also the stems of the old plants in the fall. It is best to plant in a fresh place in the garden, if possible.—Wm. Hunt.

Annual flowers are easily grown.