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THE SIMPLE LIFE

THE HOME GARDEN GARDEN CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Plant:—Many hardy border plants if weather suitable. Foliage Plants grown in pots, Bedding Plants. And especially—Gaillardias, Pyrethrums (cut back for late flowering), Delphiniums (cut back for late flowering), Cannas, Christmas Roses, Primroses, Polyanthuses, Bulbs, Spiraeas, etc., that have flowered, Geraniums, Heliotropes, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Broccoli

Broccoli.

Sow:—Any required for succesion, Auricula, Early Carrot, Broccoli, Mustard and Cress, Endive, Lettuce, Cos and Cabbage, Onions, Radish, Spinach, Coleworts, Turnip, Melon on hotbed, Quick Growing Peas, Dwarf Beans, Hardy Annuals for Autumn, Primula, Shirley Poppy, Cineraria, Hardy Perennials, Calceolaria, Hardy Biennials, Columbines, Coreopsis, a little Celery, Pansy if not sown, Polyanthus, Cucumber, Wallflower, Parsley, Calceolaria, if not sown, Primula if not sown, Winter Stocks.

COLUMBINES AND THEIR CULTURE

ODERN hybrid Columbines or Aquilegias are among the most graceful and attractive of all the flowers of the outdoor garden. Columbines of a sort we have always had, our forbears grew the

quaintly named and quaintly-shaped flowers, every cottager in the country does so even now. But the difference in the flowers! If the old-time Aquilegia was worthy of the name Columbine, then are the modern representatives of the race entitled to claim the whole harlequinade; the grace of Columbine herself, the shimmering changes of color of harlequin, even the merriment of the clown are all suggested by the modern Aquilegia in the heyday of its flowering.

The florist, for once in a while, has here permitted Nature to lead him instead of attempting to shape her efforts with mathematical primness, and for this we are glad. True, he never could have conventionalized such an unconventional flower as the Columbine, but he might have clipped her elegant spurs, he might have encouraged doubling of the flowers and so much of what we now most prize would have been lost to us.

Fortunately for those to whom new varieties of plants have prohibitive prices, the Columbine in its improved forms can be readily raised from seed A greenhouse is not necessary for the raising, although some cultivators sow seed in heat and thus forward the flowering period a little. This later method is generally adopted when seed is saved from home-grown plants, as this is not ready until summer is well advanced. It should be sown as soon as ripe, and if the grower does not mind waiting a while for flowers he may well sow in light and sandy soil outdoors. This is Nature's own method, and although it is the gardener's boast that he "doth mend Nature," it is extremely doubtful if he can mend her in the matter of raising hardy perennials from seed. Certainly many of them will grow if sown as soon as ripe in the open, whereas they fail to germinate in a cold frame in spring. But the latter is the more general way of sowing the Aquilegia, largely because nurserymen do not make a practice of offering seeds as they are harvested. March is the usual time for making a start, and a shallow, well-drained seed pan should be used. Soil composed of equal parts of loam, leaf-mould and coarse sand suits admirably, and the seed may also be mixed with a little sand to ensure its even distribution. Thin sowing is imperative, as is early picking out, for the seedlings make far-reaching roots, and these are easily broken if allowed to ramify too much. A fairly deep box should be used for pricking out the seedlings; they should be set 3 inches apart and shaded for a few days from bright sun. Planting in the open garden may be done at any time after May is out, but as the plants will not flower until the following year it is well to put them in a reserve bed and plant in their flowering quarters either in October or at the end of February. Site and situation are not very important matters, as the Aquilegia is by no means fastidious; I have found it form good clumps and make a pretty effect on an Ivy-covered bank facing north. It flourishes singularly well in heavy soil on the chalk. thousands of self-sown seedlings being annual ly produced in my garden. At the same time it will grow very well in almost pure sand, also in the shade of a wood or in the open.

Should it be desired to increase any particular variety the plant should be dug up, carefully pulled to pieces with the hands and replanted in well-worked, sandy soil. This may be done in early spring or as soon as flowering is over.—The Garden.

TWO BEAUTIFUL AND EASILY GROWN FLOWERING SHRUBS

It is surprising how seldom one meets with the double-flowered Chinese Plum (Prunus triloba flore-pleno) outside large establishments, yet its many merits and few requirements render it a plant eminently suitable for the amateur and small grower. It is one of the most handsome and showy hardy flowering shrubs that we have, and, providing a few simple rules are observed in its cultivation, it is a remarkably easy shrub to grow. Although quite hardy it is advisable to plant it against a south wall, owing to its flowering in April, else late frosts are very apt to seriously damage the handsome bright pink flowers. It needs a rich, well-drained soil of medium texture, and on no account must it be allowed to suffer for want of water during the summer months. It flowers entirely on wood of the previous year's growth, hence pruning will consist of cutting close back to the old wood all these growths as soon as they have flowered, which will be the end of April or early in May. If a good mulch of well-decayed manure can be given immedi-

ately afterwards, so much the better, as this will induce strong young shoots to be formed for flowering the following spring. Besides forming such an excellent shrub for south walls or beds in the open, it is splendid for forcing under glass.

Forsythia suspensa is another shrub whose merits demand that it should be more extensively grown. It is true that one meets with it more frequently than the Prunus, but it is always welcome and there is no danger of it being planted too extensively. Like the Prunus it is very easy to grow, and it has the additional advantage of the flowers not being injured by frost. Two systems of growing it are adopted, one being to allow the plants to grow naturally and produce long, pendent branches that are covered with bright yellow bell-shaped flowers in April; and the other is to prune the young shoots back hard to the old wood as soon as they have flowered, precisely the same as advised for the Prunus. This cutting back will not, of course, be resorted to until the plants have reached the height required to fill the position in which they are planted. Almost any good garden soil suits this shrub, but, where the cutting back system is adopted, heavy feeding by means of mulching with well-

Compared with the afore-mentioned plants, the sight of the Staphylea is rare indeed. Yet I venture to say it is equal to either of them for beauty and fragrance combined. Its flowers are pure white, are produced in large terminal trusses and are bell-like in shape. Its lasting quality is also good. Any good garden soil will suit it, but a partially-shaded position will be better than where the hot sun would play upon it.—C. Te

MAKING A ROSE POTPOURRI

One cannot but regret to see the roses shatter and fall, but even in their death they can be made to afford a lasting pleasure of perfume with but little trouble.

When the rose has become full-blown and is about to shatter, clip it off and shake the petals into a jar, sprinkling lightly with fine, dry salt. When eight or nine quarts of petals have been gathered, turn into a colander and press out the brine which will have formed, then spread the petals upon a cloth or paper to dry, tossing them about with the hands so as to prevent lumping. When dry, place in a large bowl and add the following:

heavy feeding by means of mulching with welldecayed manure as soon as the pruning is done a quarter of an ounce; rose, half an ounce;

yellow flowers and green leaves, while for variation the golden-leaved form may be planted. S. spectabile is a tall-growing species that may well find a position at the back of the rockery; its pink flowers will be very welcome during September. S. rupestre, S. spurium and S. Sieboldii are others that are well suited for a hot, dry rockery.

The Houseleeks or Sempervivums also provide an abundance of sun-loving, shallow-rooting plants, the pretty rosettes of pointed succulent leaves, often surmounted by curious-looking inflorescences, rendering them objects of much interest. S. glaucum and S. tectorum are two well-known yet handsome sorts that will thrive in the hottest position during the summer months, and the lesser-known S. montanum and S. californicum will also do well in some localities. Gold Dust (Alyssum saxatile) is another good subject for a hot position, and the evergreen Candytuft (Iberis sempervirens) may also be successfully employed if a good rooting medium is provided.

The great thing during the winter is to keep them dry, and to this end they must be provided with very porous soil, one in which a quantity of crushed bricks has been incorporated being preferable. There are many other plants that could be undoubtedly be used for

size. Some of the largest measure 10 to 12 inches across. The colors range from pure white to various shades of lilac and violet, indigo to almost black. The lighter shades are frequently blotched and streaked with other colors. The flowers appear in June or July, large plants often producing upwards of 100 individual flowers. A big bed when in blossom is a sight not to be forgotten. If cut with long stems the spikes are fine for bouquets. Seed are produced in abundance. If planted in outside beds in a moist place or sown in shallow boxes and left outside during the winter the seed will germinate the following spring.

OLEARIA HAASTI

This pretty dwarf shrub is well adapted for growing in towns, as smoke and other fumes do not affect it, and it is especially suitable for small gardens, being dwarf in habit and possessing very free-flowering qualities. It is grown somewhat extensively in the cemetery at Blaina on an exposed situation, but it is quite at home, and the smoke and sulphury fumes from the furnaces do not seem to affect it at all. For the last three years at least the plants have flowered very profusely, being really a sheet of white blossom. I may add that this beautiful shrub is much more hardy than a great many suppose. I have seen oldestablished plants doing well and flowering very profusely every year at East Lothian.

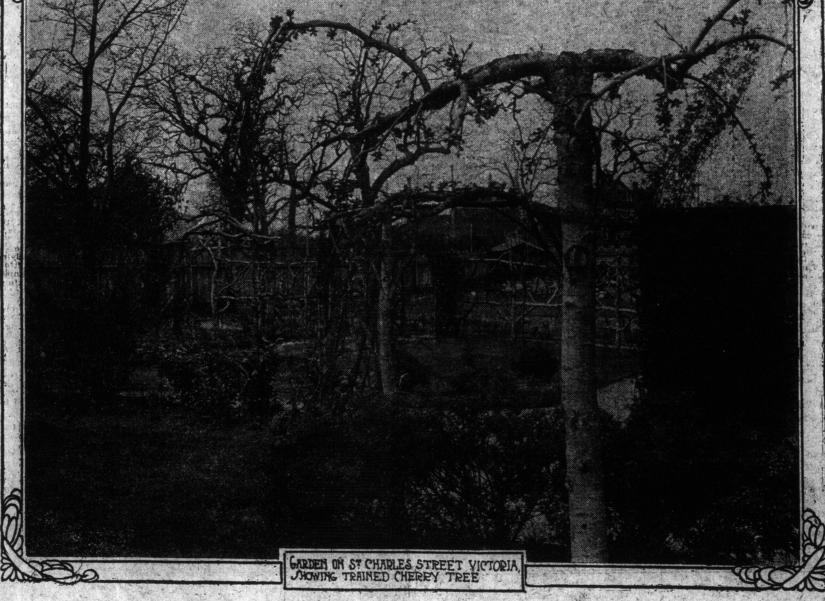
THE GOOSEBERRY

This is one of the most useful and also one of the most easily grown of our hardy fruits. Although not the first to ripen its fruit, it is the first to produce fruit which can be used for cooking. Many growers begin gathering the green fruit at Whitsuntide; but in warm localities where the effects of late spring frosts are not felt it is customary to do so at an earlier date. A large quantity of fruit may be gathered from bushes which occupy little space; it is, therefore, one of the best fruits the owner of a small garden can grow with the reasonable expectation of a quck return. The Gooseberry is not fastidious as to soil, but it is not grown successfully in stiff clays.

The intending planter should prepare the land by deep digging or trenching, burying a liberal quantity of rotten manure. Bushes may be planted at a distance of 5 feet apart. dig out a hole large enough for the roots to be spread out evenly, fill in the soil carefully and tread firmly. Do not bury the plants too deep or numerous suckers will grow from the base of the plants.

The pruning of the Gooseberry is an important matter if high class fruit is to be secured. Young bushes at the time of planting should have the shoots cut back to one-third of their length. Any weak or crowded shoots should be cut back to I inch of their b Summer pinching, which is often neglected a material aid in the production of an abundance of fruit of good quality. The lateral or side shoots should be pinched back to five leaves, but the main shoots or leaders must not be pinched in the summer. These leaders should have the unripened tips cut off at the winter pruning, and the laterals are then cut back to one inch of the base. When the bushes are several years old, some of the best-placed and strongest shoots may be left their full length and a portion of the old worn-out branches cut away. A supply of young vigorous shoots is thus secured, which, with attention to the necessary thinning, will produce an abundance of fine fruit. The Gooseberry is surface-rooting, and deep digging must not be practised between the bushes. The soil may, however, be lightly pricked over with a fork after the winter pruning and a mulch of man-

The cordon system of training the Gooseberry is to be highly recommended. Grown thus the plants may be trained to walls, fences, or on a trellis. Fruit for dessert is excellent from cordon Gooseberries, and another advantage is that they are easily protected from the depredations of birds. Gooseberries grown as cordons should have the laterals pinched to five leaves during the summer. The winter pruning consists of spurring the laterals back to I inch of their base and cutting off the weak, unripened tips of the leading shoots. The best method of propagating the Gooseberry is by cuttings. Select for this purpose vigorous, firm shoots from I foot to 15 inches in length. Make a clean cut through just below a joint, remove the top bud from the shoot, and rub off all others except the four upper ones. Insert the cuttings 4 inches deep and 4 inches apart in rows 18 inches apart. Make them quite firm by treading the soil around them. There are numerous varieties of Gooseberries. The following are excellent, producing large crops of good fruit: Crown Bob, red; Early Greenage, green; Langley Gage, yellow; Eagle, white; Warrington, red; and Thumper, green, very late. The following have highly-flavored berries, good for dessert: Champagne Red; Champagne Yellow; Ironmonger, dark red; Whitesmith, white; Leader, yellow; and Keen's Seedling,



will be required, the idea being to encourage the formation of strong young shoots. This shrub is also suitable for gentle forcing under glass. Forsythia viridissima is also a good species, much like F. suspensa, but of more erect habit.

HOW TO GET BIG GLADIOLI

Just previous to the appearance of flower-spikes, fork into the soil a dressing of ground bone and wood-ashes—one part bone-meal to three parts wood-ashes—one or two pounds to a hundred square feet, which is at the rate of about six hundred to one thousand pounds to an acre, or frequent waterings with manurewater may be given.

To get the greatest benefit from the cut spikes of gladiolus, they should be picked when only two or three buds have partially opened, and plunged into water; after which they should be set in a cool place and left to develop. The colors of the flowers which open under such conditions are far more brilliant than those which have opened out-of-doors;

for the sun will fade the latter.

Spikes of gladioli for house decoration cut before the third or fourth flower opens, will, as a rule, open nicely in the house without the previous care already mentioned, and the balance of the bud will open if the water is kept rather cool and changed every day. When cutting the flower-spikes of gladioli, some of the leaves should be left to mature the bulbs.

STAPHÝLEA COLCHICA

This is a very beautiful shrub, suitable alike for early forcing in the greenhouse or for outdoor planting, as it is quite hardy. But it is to call greater attention to the former claim that I pen this note. Many amateur and professional gardeners are procuring such plants as Azaleas, Lilacs and Rhododendrons for the beautifying in the near future of their greenhouses. May I suggest a trial to those who have not done so of a few plants of the above?

heliotrope, half an ounce.

Spices: Half a teaspoonful of mace, one-fourth teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-fourth teaspoonful of cloves.

Essential oils: Rose, one drop; bergamot, five drops; alcohol, one dram; eucalyptus, ten drops; chiris, five drops.

This is for about half a peck of fresh rose petals. The half-peck of fresh petals will be reduced to a quarter-peck in the salt jar. You can have the powders and oils mixed at the drug store, so that it will not be necessary to purchase a quantity of each.

Place the finished mass in open bowls, and the rooms in which they remain will be deliciously scented and sweetened for several years—the potpourri retaining its strength for a surprisingly long time.—Emmet C. Hall, in Suburban Life.

ALPINE OR ROCK PLANTS FOR DRY PLACES

It very frequently happens in many gardens that there is a border or corner fully exposed to the rays of the sun nearly all day, with the result that the soil becomes so parched and dry that the owner is at his or her wit's end to know what to plant in it with any hope of success. Happily, Nature has provided many plants that will thrive in such a position, and it is now intended to point out some that are especially adapted for planting on rockeries that are notorious for their parched character during the summer months.

Perhaps the most showy subject of all is the charming dwarf-growing annual Portulaca grandiflora. This delights in a sunny aspect, and, providing reasonably good soil is afforded, it will grow and flower with but little attention. Seeds are sown the third week in April where the plants are to flower.

The Stonecrop or Sedum family is onefrom which we can select plants for our purpose with comparative freedom. The common little British plant, Sedum acre, is charming when draping a large boulder with its bright

a hot and dry rockery did the circumstances demand them, and owners of such positions would do well to experiment with any plants that are of a succulent or wooly character.

THE WINTER ACONITE

This charming little plant is flowering rather late this season, owing to the severe weather we have experienced. Each spring as I watch its furled yellow buds rising from the damp, and often frozen earth, I wonder why it is not always found in gardens. Even the smallest plot of ground should have a few clumps of this pretty little plant. How delightful it is to see a broad mass of its golden yellow blooms glistening in the bright sunshine. Because of its earliness the Winter Aconite is worthy of a place in the garden among other spring bulbs, but it produces the finest effect when naturalized in the turf under deciduous trees or in wild corners. In such situations it seeds itself freely, especially if the soil is not too cold.

JAPANESE IRIS

Although this plant (Iris laevigata) is one of the easiest of culture, amateurs frequently fail with it because of overlooking the essential requirement of moisture at all times. If possible select for this plant a place that is naturally continually moist. It should not be under water in the winter, however, for in such a location the plant will rot.

A heavy moist soil is needed. If too poor and sandy, dig in plenty of well-rotted manure and mulch the bed heavily in summer. Plants in the open border frequently suffer from the hot sun and disease. In preparing a bed dig deeply, as the roots often penetrate two feet or more. Planting can be done either in fall or spring; if in the fall, mulch well with straw or manure to prevent the frost lifting the plants out of the

The Japan iris blooms earlier than the other species. The flowers are variable in color and

VICTORIA ROSE SHOW

Judging by the number of entries already in, there should be a rare treat in store for visitors to the rose show, which will be held on Friday, June 19, under the auspices of the Victoria Horticultural Society. This being the third show held by the society, it is hoped that those who take an interest in rose culture will attend, as the display promises to be both interesting and instructive.