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FLOWERS FROM SEED

Beauty and Fragrance for All at Very Small Cost.

Most Annuals May Be Sown Indoors For an Early Start—A Few Simple Remedies Suggested for Insect and Other Pests—Annuals May Be Transplanted.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Among the varieties that should be started early indoors are Petunias, Verbenas, Antirrhinum (Snapdragon), Pentstemon glaziovides, Salvia, Ageratum, Centaurea gymnocarpa (Dusty Miller), Pyrethrum (Golden Feather), and Lobelia. The four kinds last named being of a dwarf habit of growth are very useful for planting around the edge of flower borders. The Lobelia does best in light soil and where it does not get too much sun. The first named varieties being of a taller habit better suited for the centre of flower beds or borders. There are no summer decorative plants that can be raised from seed that will make a finer and more continuous display in the flower garden during summer than those named, if the seed is started early in a window, hot bed, or greenhouse, and the plants given even ordinary care and attention. If sown out of doors early in May they are very late in flowering. All the plants before named will also be found very useful for helping to fill up window and verandah boxes, rustic stands, and hanging baskets. Being of a perennial or lasting nature, many of them can also be successfully dug up in the autumn before frosts, and placed in pots or boxes for indoor decoration during early winter. Those late in flowering, such as Ageratum, Snapdragon and Pentstemon are especially useful for this purpose. Seed should be saved from the best types of all of the plants named during the summer months for the next spring sowing. The Dusty Miller does not seed the first year, as a rule. A supply of cuttings may also be obtained from most of the plants named, if the old plants are kept in a cool window during winter.

Tall Plants for Centre.

If a few tall plants for the centre, or at the back of a large border are required, plant a few seeds of the Ricinus (Castor Oil Bean). These may be planted about an inch deep in shallow boxes early indoors in April, and transplanted singly into

3 or 4 1/2-inch flower pots when three or four leaves are started; or one bean may be put in the same sized flower pot mentioned, and the plants allowed to grow there until planted out in the garden about the second week in June. All of the seedling plants started early as suggested should be transplanted when from four to six leaves have developed into good soil singly into 2 1/2 or 3-inch pots or be set about 1 1/2 inches apart in shallow, well drained boxes filled with good soil.

Some Annuals Suggested.

A few varieties of annuals such as Asters, Chinese Pinks, Phlox Drummondii, Zinnia, Balsams, Marigold, Coreopsis, Scabiosa, Calendula (pot Marigold), Mignonette, Schizanthus (Butterfly flower) and other varieties if needed, may be sown indoors early in April for early flowering or they may be sown out in the border about the second week in May for later flowering. A great many annuals such as Poppies, Nasturtiums, Ten Week Stock, Silene Armeria (Catchfly), Gypsophila elegans, Nigella (Love in a Mist), Annual Larkspur, and other similar annuals do not transplant or succeed as well when sown indoors. It is best to sow these last named out of doors early in May where they are to grow. Sweet Alyssum and the Purple and White Candytufts are among the best dwarf edging annuals we have, and should also be sown out of doors early in May. Early sown Sweet Alyssum is often attacked by the small black flea beetle, that completely destroys the plants. Plants from seed sown later (end of May) are seldom attacked. The best remedy for this flea beetle is to spray the plants with a solution of Paris Green, made by first well mixing a small teaspoonful of Paris Green (or Arsenate of Lead) in a tablespoonful or two of cold water, then add water to make one gallon. Dusting the plants with Pyrethrum Powder, wood ashes, or soot are also good remedies. Another good annual, especially for a hot, sunny position is Portulacca. The seed is best sown broadcast on finely raked soil, and the seed raked in very lightly. Thin the plants later on from four to six inches apart. If you have a dry, hot, sunny position where very few plants will grow, try some Portulacca. If a few early Nasturtium plants, or of any climbing annual are wanted for window or verandah boxes, put two or three seeds in soil in three-inch pots in April, they will transplant much better from pots than from boxes. Nasturtiums are one of the best annuals for window boxes. The seed may also be sown rather thickly in window boxes out of doors early in May, and the plants thinned to about six inches apart later on. All annuals may be transplanted to advantage singly into small pots.

This list of annuals given may be

extended considerably, those mentioned are among the most satisfactory for the average flower grower. —The late Wm. Hunt, O. A. College, Guelph.

Manure.

Much of the fertilizing value of manure is lost when piled in the barnyard till spring. Plan to haul it out to the fields as made. There, when spread or piled in small heaps, the bulk of this valuable by-product is utilized by next season's crops.

DANDELION CONTROL.

Four or Five Sprayings With Iron Sulphate Will Do the Trick.

Little attention was paid to the dandelion as a weed thirty years ago, but with the clearing up of lands and removal of obstacles to the spread of the weed great increase of the nuisance is seen in grass land everywhere. The dandelion cannot succeed on land that is well cultivated, but areas of grass, whether pasture fields, roadways or lawns, are usually heavily infested. Large areas cannot well be treated unless the use of the land is such as to permit heavy expenditures. Small areas, such as lawns and portions of golf courses, may under proper management be kept free of dandelions.

Spraying with iron sulphate, four or five applications during one season, will generally free a grass area of the pest. But the treatment must be repeated every third year. The first spraying should be applied just before the first blooming period of the dandelion and followed by two others at intervals of three weeks. Two further applications should also be given during September or October. Spraying should not be done during the hot, dry period unless water can be applied to keep the grass growing vigorously. Grass areas that are sprayed usually blacken considerably after each application, but this burned appearance disappears after a few days. Areas that are being sprayed for the eradication of dandelion should be well fertilized, and grass seed should be applied to keep up the required number of grass plants to form a good turf. White clover is killed by iron sulphate spray, so cannot succeed under this method of dandelion control. The strength of solution to use is 1 1/2 pounds to one gallon of water. —L. Stevenson, Secretary Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

Why a \$5,000 Bull Was Sold for \$50.

When a certain farmer a few years ago sold his registered Holstein bull to his local butcher no records had been made by any of the bull's daughters. Within a year eleven of the daughters freshened at the ages of two and three. Records were made of milk and butter-fat production, and to the astonishment of everybody the average milk production was 14,502 pounds and the average butter-fat production was 573 pounds.

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