

The Garden.

For April.

SEEDLINGS OF THE SEASON.

L.—THE DAHLIA.

Lovers of handsome plants should secure a fine selection of dahlias, than which no more handsome plant exists. The colours and shades of the different varieties include the bright and brilliant as well as the most delicate. The geometrical regularity of the flowers gives it the appearance of a large floral gem artificially cut in facets. Being tuberous rooted and somewhat tender plants, the seeds should not be sown until all danger from frost is passed. They require deep planting in moist rich loam, and



THE BISHOP OF DURHAM DAHLIA.

should be well watered in dry seasons. April is a good month for sowing. The following are some of the principal varieties, the seeds for which can be supplied by Mr. Wm. Rennie, corner of Adelaide and Jarvis Streets, Toronto:

The "BISHOP OF DURHAM," the subject of our illustration, very dark maroon; the under portion of cups coloured with dark slate. The BUTTERFLY, deep yellow, splashed and striped with carmine. The LEADER, dark rich purple. QUEEN MAE, white edges of cups beautifully marked with cardinal red; the blossoms are large. The CHAIRMAN, bright orange. The DIANA, white ground shaded, beautiful shell pink; one of the finest in the collection. The ST. CLAIR, pale yellow, slightly edged with light magenta, and other varieties.

These plants should be taken up in the fall and stored during winter in a warm, dry cellar. Cover the roots with dry sand, and when replanting, cut off the side branches, to make the top bloom more perfect.

TOWN AND SUBURBAN GARDENING.

(Continued from our last issue.)

In routine outdoor work an increased amount of time and attention will be needed, nor will this be lessened as the season advances, rather the other way, in fact, and for the next three months gardening will be an important matter, particularly where it has to be done in spare time. Where there is a lawn, and it is in a patchy and not very presentable state, if no attempt has yet been made to give it a fresh start for the season, now is a good time for doing so, and there are many advantages in seed-sowing at this time of year. Of course, where the lawn is one mass of daisies and other weeds, nothing less than relaying can be thought of; but where there are only a few weeds, and bare places, and general thinness of the lawn, the following is a good plan

to adopt. In the first place, mow the lawn over with a scythe, and sweep off all the cut grass; then spud up the weeds, using a spade to lift such long rooted subjects as docks and dandelions, and an ordinary steel dinner fork for daisies, plantains, etc., removing the plants bodily. Having removed all the weeds, well scratch the surface of the lawn with an iron-toothed garden rake, and sow broadcast a mixture of fine grass and clover seeds, good samples of which can be had of any large seedsman. The ground should be raked over again, and a little fine rich soil can be spread over the whole of the lawn; afterwards roll the whole over two or three times. Of course this work must be done in fine weather, and when the surface of the soil is in a workable condition, but if as soon as the seeds are in, a heavy rain comes on, so much the better, as it will materially prevent loss from sparrows and other birds. Where turf has to be relaid, now is a very good time for the work; if this is properly done, the lawn will be a good one before the end of the year. It often happens that much annoyance is caused by worms; and the earth they cast up, although a good dressing to the lawn, is very unsightly, therefore it is desirable that it, some way they shall be destroyed or removed. The best way to do this is by means of lime water, which, if not positively beneficial, is at least non-injurious to the grass, and is perfectly free from the danger attendant on the use of poisons. In the first place, it is necessary to have a large tub in which to make the lime water, and the larger this is within reason, the better will it be, as it is very desirable that a fair breadth should be operated on at once. Having the tub in readiness, place in it a quantity of as freshly burned quicklime as it is possible to obtain, allowing about a bushel to every ten gallons of water, as very possibly more than one lot of water will be required, and although such a quantity of lime will be enough to use with three or four lots of water, it is as well to put it all into the tub at once, and so save further trouble and mess. Pour into the tub as much water as it will conveniently hold, using rain water for preference, and well stirring as the lime breaks up. Let the solid parts settle, and skim off the film on the top of the water, as only the clear portion should be used. Select showery weather for the work, applying the clear water regularly and freely just after a shower, and using a coarse-rosed watercan for the purpose. A boy will be needed with a bucket to collect the worms as they come to the surface, and while he is doing this a fresh lot of water can be placed on the lime, well stirring as before, and when settled using the clear portion. Water will only take up a certain quantity of lime, so it is not possible to make too strong a solution, and, when clear, lime water will rather benefit than injure the grass. On the other hand, if the water is used without allowing the solid parts to settle, the appearance of the lawn will be spoiled for the whole season. The most unpleasant part of the work is collecting the worms; a boy hired for this purpose will generally not object to picking them up.

(To be Continued.)

In case that any of our readers should have a fancy to try the cultivation of walnut trees for ketchup or other purposes, we append the following hints for their management, culled from an exchange: First, plant the nuts in full when fresh; select good ripe ones, and plant two in a hill, or check if not timber; but if for wind-break, in rows about as corn, and drill a few feet apart in the rows. For timber, some seven or eight feet apart, and put other crops for two or three years in rows between the walnut trees, and the fall of the first years, if there are two, take out one, and cut the whole top off the other at the ground and let two sprouts start out in spring, and when hardening take off one, leaving the one on the south side of the root, and cultivate in the best way possible with hoe crops, as potatoes, beans, and other vines, if possible; if not, put in corn and cultivate and keep trimmed nicely, add you will have nice straight stalks that will continue to make nice trees.

AMUSED WITH TRIFLES.—Those who place their affections at first on trifles for amusement will find these trifles become at last their most serious concerns.—Goldsmith.

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