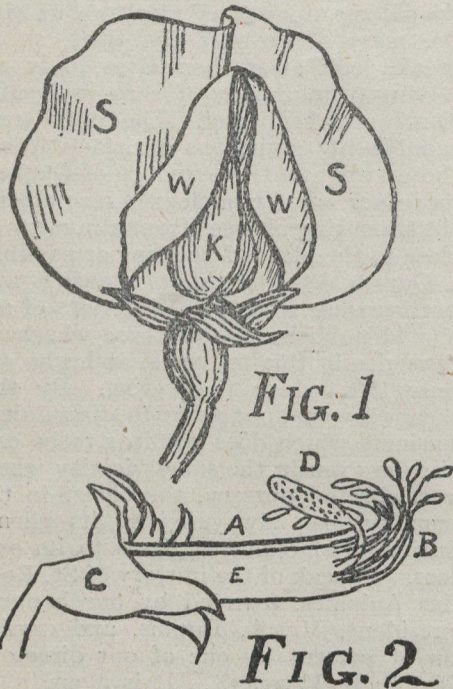


Botanists have named the sweet pea *Lathyrus odoratus*, and, on account of its beauty and fragrance, classify it as the queen of the order *leguminosae*, to which it belongs. It has a calyx of five



Sweet Pea—*Lathyrus Odoratus*

Fig. 1.—The standard is shown at S, the wings at W and the keel at K. Fig. 2.—Shows the essential organs. The tenth stamen is at A, the nine cohescent stamens at B, the calyx at C, the pistil, stigma and ovary at D and E.

sepals, from which springs an irregular corola of five petals. The largest petal is called the standard, the two next in size the wings, and the two smaller ones, which envelop the essential organs, form the keel. Because of its resemblance to a butterfly it is said to be papilionaceous. The essential organs consist of ten diadelphous stamens—nine coherent and one by itself—and one pistil, with style and stigma, attached to a single ovary, which later forms the pod containing the ovules or seed. The earliest botanical history dates back to 1650, and although the sweet pea has been slow in its evolution, it has become so popular that its cultivation has inspired great interest among amateurs. At present there are seven distinct classes of sweet peas, and before beginning to cultivate either, it would be well to understand all.

THE GRANDIFLORA TYPE

Class I is the grandiflora type, which is a little later in flowering than the earlies. The vines are of strong, vigorous growth, very free in blooming, with extra large flowers, of good form and substance, coming on long stems in threes and fours, and all facing the same way. In this class we have a great variety of reflex, expanded, folded and hooded forms, in all colors known.

Class II is the orchid-flowering type. Of all the sweet peas grown, these are

the most superior, as well as the most recent. The flowers are much larger than those of the grandiflora type, blooming in threes and fours, on long, stiff stems, with a glistening finish which resembles frosted silver, while the edges of the standards and wings are wavy, or fluted, like a cockle shell. This type was originated in England, the "Countess of Spencer" being the first, and therefore the parent, of the class. The vines grow vigorously; but, while they are very free in flowering, the seeds grow in such small numbers that the prices are high. This peculiarity is due, perhaps, to the fact that the wings fold down over the keel so closely that the essential organs are too well protected, and insect fertilization is often impossible. This type varies from a delicate shell pink to a deep rose. At present the set is comparatively small, "Enchantress," an English novelty of 1907, being perhaps the most beautiful.

DWARF EARLY FLOWERING

Class III is the dwarf early flowering type, which, when in full flower, is only fifteen inches high, blooming in sixty or seventy days from the planting of the seed. The flowers are smaller than those of the grandiflora class, and are slightly notched at the top of the standard. They are very fragrant, and when cut in sprays with the foliage, make cheering house decorations. The class contains only three distinct varie-

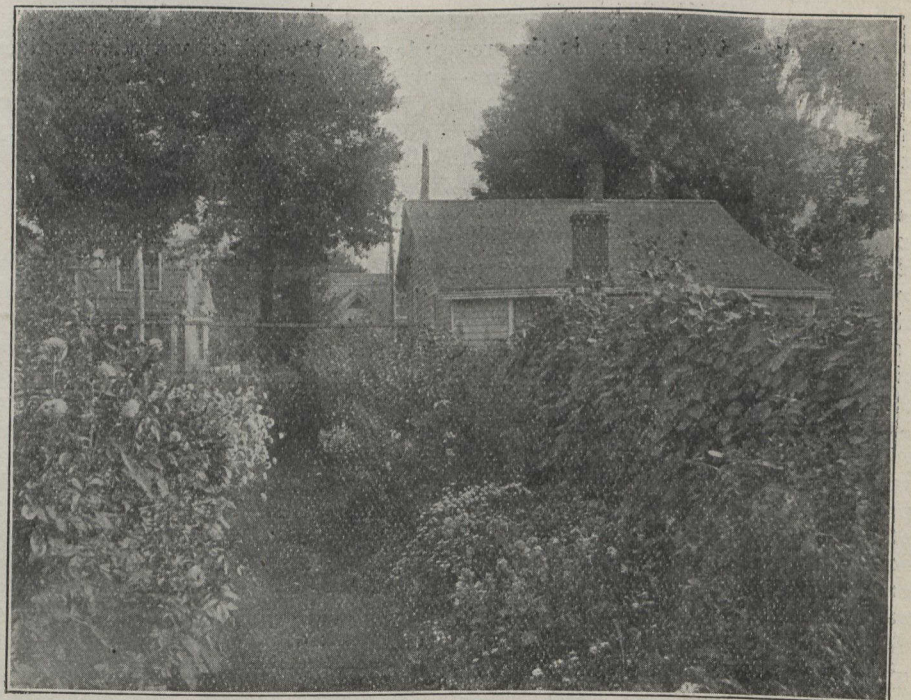
ties. Class IV may be termed a collection of freaks, since they are malformations, and not desirable, except as curiosities. Their structure consists in poorly developed standards, and a close, or bud-like, form.

THE DOUBLES

Class V consists of doubles. It is not a distinct class, for doubles are likely to come on any of the grandiflora type. They have two, three and sometimes four standards. Occasionally there will be two or three normal flowers and one double on the same stem. This occurs frequently among the "King Edward VII." Doubles, however, are not given much attention; in fact, they should not be encouraged at all. They do not figure among first-class culture exhibits, but seeds can be obtained from any of the growers, if desired.

CUPIDS AND BUSH PEAS

Class VI gives us the cupids and the bush varieties. Cupids do not grow upright, but spread their foliage over the earth in matted clusters. The bush peas grow compact and erect to the height of eighteen inches. Neither varieties require much moisture, as they are deep rooted, and thrive in the hottest weather. They will not do so well in the same locality as the tall varieties, because their foliage is liable to mildew in damp surroundings. Both classes have many variegations.



A Mixed Garden of Annuals, Perennials and Climbers

Grown last season by Mr. J. A. Wiley, St. Catharines, Ont.

ties, but the colors are quite pretty, "Earliest of All," with bright pink standard and creamy wings being perhaps the finest.

Class VII is the notched type. There was a time when the standards had a decided notch, or nick, in the centre, and sometimes at the side. The cen-