

Continuity of Bloom in Small Gardens*

W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, Ottawa, Ont.

THE seasons when it is most difficult to have good bloom is just after the bulb season in the spring and during the month of September. Hence we will suggest more plants for spring and autumn, than for summer.

One of the earliest blooming perennials is *Arabis alpina flore pleno*, or Double-flowered *Alyssum*. This begins to bloom soon after the snow has gone. Its double, pure white flowers are borne in great profusion. It is low growing, increases rapidly, and is very useful for the front of the border.

No small garden is complete without a good plant of *Bleeding Heart*. It has a blooming season of a month or more in the latter part of May and June, and is both striking and attractive.

The *Epimediums*, or *Barrenworts*, are very attractive spring flowering perennials, and are desirable for cutting. The varieties of *Trollius*, or *Globe flower*, in various shades of yellow and orange are among the best spring flowering plants, and the native *Trillium grandiflorum* should be in every small garden. It thrives well under cultivation and clumps soon spread.

*Extract from a paper read at the recent convention in Toronto of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Continued from last issue.



Yucca Filamentosa

This plant stands about five feet six inches high. It is just a young plant and will spread out considerably as it gets older. It is a very striking and rather pretty plant. This specimen is hardly at its best yet as only a few of the flowers are fully opened. It was photographed by a representative of The Canadian Horticulturist in the grounds of the Canadian Nursery Company, of Montreal.

Lily of the Valley and *Forget-Me-Not* are delightful spring flowering plants, but each needs a place of its own. The former because its blooming season is short and it spreads rapidly, and the latter because it becomes a weed in the border.

Iris florentina blooms in May, and because of its early blooming it should not be omitted, the many varieties of *German Iris* soon follow.

The *Day Lily*, *Hemerocallis flava*, is an attractive yellow-flowered plant, and its fine foliage makes it useful as a background for other species.

SUMMER PLANTS.

Among summer-blooming plants there is none more desirable than perennial *phlox*, of which there are many fine varieties. Among low growing plants for bloom in late summer we have found that *Rudbeckia Newmanni*, a sort of *Black-eyed Susan*, is one of the most desirable. It increases rapidly and clumps should be scattered all along the front or near the front of the border.

No lilies have been mentioned so far. They are not as necessary as some other flowers, and anyone who wants lilies will get them anyway, but *Lilium speciosum* is, we believe, an absolute necessity in a small garden where continuity of bloom is desired. It flowers during the month of September when bloom is scarce. *Japanese Anemones* are also desirable for late bloom, but as the first frost injures these and they do not bloom until very late, they are not to be depended upon. There are many tall growing yellow flowers, such as *Rudbeckia Golden Glow*, *Helianthus* of various species, and *Heliopsis* with running root stalks, but all of these should be kept out of the mixed border as they give endless work in keeping them under control. If they are used they should be treated as things apart. There are, however, some good late blooming flowers which do not spread in this way or at least not rapidly. Among these are *Helianthus multiflorus maximus*, *Helianthus Soleil d'or*, *Helenium autumnale superbum*, *Helenium grandicephalum striatum*, and some of the finest autumn flowering plants are among the *Michaelmas daisies* or *asters*, and of these we have found that *Aster Novae Angliae*, *Mrs. Rayner*, a reddish purple flowered variety is one of the best.

In a border where continuity of bloom is desired all the tall plants should not be put at the very back. The late blooming sorts are most of them tall, and if they are all kept in the rear there is a dearth of bloom near the front in late summer or autumn unless annuals are



A Seven Year Old Brugmansia

This plant, grown by Miss Cox, of Stratford, stands over six feet from the ground, although it was severely pruned last spring. When photographed it had between thirty and forty buds and blossoms. The full bloom is nearly a foot long and about six inches across and of an ivory whiteness. It blooms in September, and the blossoms open to their full extent in the evening.

used, most of which do not go well with perennials.

It will be noticed that peonies have not yet been mentioned, but peonies should, in a small garden, be planted by themselves. They take up too much room in a mixed border and are apt to smother smaller and more precious things. A peony-bed should not have too prominent a place in a small garden, as when the blooming season is over it is too conspicuous an object and not sufficiently attractive. If planted near a fence or wall provided they have abundant sunlight, good soil, and sufficient moisture they will look well when in bloom and will relieve the hard lines of the fence afterwards.

A border of narcissus or pansies along the front will give color to the bed before the peonies bloom, and gladioli may be used with good effect behind for later bloom. Gladioli are also very desirable in the mixed border, and if some are planted late will be particularly useful in September when bloom is scarce.