

THE HOME GARDEN

Garden Calendar For February

Dig and Manure Flower Borders which have not been prepared:

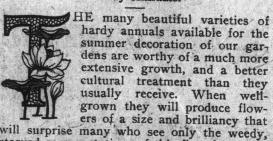
Plant—Hardy border plants, Alpines, hardy climbers, shrubs, deciduous trees, fruit trees, pot greenhouse plants, vegetable roots, Gladioli; and especially: Paeonies, Delphiniums, phloxes, Pentstemons, Hollybocks, rock plants, Michaelmas Daisies, Pyrethrums, Gaillardias, Carnation layers, Pink layers, Pansies, Violas, Sweet Williams, Roses (if not done), evergreen shrubs, Pot Cannes, etcouperries.

Pansies, Violas, Sweet Williams, Roses, Pink layers, Pansies, Violas, Sweet Williams, Roses (if not done), evergreen shrubs, Pot Cannas, strawberries, Shallots, artichokes, garilc, seakale, cabbage plants, lettuces, cos and cabbage, potato onion, asparagus, early and main crop potatoes in warm border, start Begonias, start Achimenes, start Gloxinias, Pansies. Sow—Sprts that have failed, peas (early and second early), broad beans, Milan turnip, radish, grass seed, varfous kales, celery under glass, a little cabbage, mushrooms, a little broccoli, lettuce, cos and cabbage, mushrooms, a little broccoli, lettuce, cos and cabbage, mushrooms, a little broccoli, lettuce, cos and cabbage, mushrooms, a little broccoli, recess, herbs, spinach, parsnip, cucumber in heat, tomato in heat, Aster in frames, Stock in frames, Godetia in frames, Marigold in frames, Nasturtium, Balsam in heat, Begonia in heat, Celosia in heat, Cockscomb in heat, Gloxinia in heat, Petunia in heat, Lobelia in heat, hardy annuals under glass, artichoke, Jerusalem artichoke, Cardon, rhubarb, seakale, half-hardy annuals in frames,

Note—Some of the above sowings are probably a little early in some localities, but it is worth while to risk sowing a little seed in order to obtain an early crop of delicious spring vegetables.

OBSERVATIONS ON REARING OF FLOWERS FROM SEED

Hardy Annuals.



starved representatives of this fine class. Although hardy annuals will thrive fairly in almost any soil or situation, some little preparation of the ground before sowing is necessary to grow them to perfection; and the first consideration is to reduce the surface to a fine and even tilth, carefully removing all large stones and clods, and if the soil be poor, working in a liberal quantity of well-decayed

For a general display, perhaps the best time for sowing is about the middle of March, and for a later succession, April; but we have seen annuals sown in May, and even the early part of June, that have bloomed splendidly in the autumn months. After sowng, the cultivation of hardy annuals is extremely simple, early and vigorous thinning out of the clumps or patches being nearly all that is necessary to ensure an abundance of fine plants, with a profusion of handsome flowers. Various methods are adopted in sewing, but perhaps the simplest and best plan for garden decoration is to sow in shallow burrows, of from nine to twelve inches in diameter, or in rows or drills, their distance apart to be regulated according to the height of the plants when fully grown. When this is done in dry weather an excellent plan is to fill the furrows with water and allow it to settle before sowing, carefully covering the seeds with the soil removed in the operation and pressing down firmly with a trowel or flat piece of wood. Such large seeds as Nasturtiums, Lupins and Sweet Peas may be covered to the depth of an inch; Convolvulus, major and minor, not quite so deep; smaller seeds, such as Mignonette, etc., require but a slight covering. Hardy annuals may also be sown broadcast in mixture, in beds or patches, in waste places, shrubberies, etc., and have a very pleasing effect. For early spring decoration such fine varieties as Nemophila insignis and alba, Silene Pendula, Limnanthes Douglasii, etc., may be sown in a sheltered position in August or early in September, and transferred as vacancies occur to where they are intended to bloom. Godetias, also, in their many beautiful varieties, which are perfectly hardy, bloom much earlier and finer when sown in the autumn and transplanted early in spring.

Half-Hardy Annuals. The great majority of half-hardy annuals require a long period of growth to develop the fine plants and blooms for which they are so much esteemed, and sowing should therefore commence as soon as convenient after the second week in February, and be continued to the end of March, or the middle of April. There are, however, some slight exceptions to this rule, as for instance, in the case of Zinnias and Marigolds, which should not be sown before the middle of March, and Ten-week Stocks, which may be sown as early as the middle of January, or early in February, and indeed treated thus will produce much finer blooms than those sown in March or April. The finest Asters are produced from seeds sown the first and second weeks in April, and which should not, as a rule, be sown earlier. The beautiful Scarlet Flax (Linum grandiflorum rubrum) succeeds best treated as a hardy annual, and sown in April.

The most useful soil for raising plants from seeds, under glass, is composed of about equal

first importance, after providing ample drainage, that the soil should be pressed down firmly before sowing the seeds; this will secure a more even moisture and greater certainty of germination than can be had by sowing on a loose and porous surface. Sow the seeds thinly, distributing as evenly as you can, and cover as lightly as possible with a sprinkling of fine oil, and after submitting them to a slight pressure from such as the bottom of a flower-pot, give them a careful watering and place in a gentle heat. When the young plants come up, place them as near as possible to the ght, and give them on all favorable occasions a fair quantity of air, carefully avoiding, however, their exposure to the keen, drying east winds so often prevalent in spring. When the plants have reached a size at which they can be handled, the choicer varieties should be carefully pricked out into pots, pans, boxes, etc., and placed in the greenhouse close to the glass, or in frames, where on fine warm days they can have the full benefit of air and sun. This will enable them to make good sturdy plants with plenty of roots, that will transplant well, and produce an abundance of handome flowers.

The best time for planting out depends very much on the season, and this operation should never be hurried if the weather be unfavorable, or proper attention cannot be given. Where heat is not available, half-hardy annuals may easily be raised by sowing in April, in pans or boxes placed under hand-lights, or in a cool frame close to the glass, the only difference being their blooming somewhat later. We have, indeed, seen a fine autumn display of half-hardy annuals sown in May on the open border, and of Asters sown so late as the first week in June. Lobelias for bedding out canextensive growth, and a better not be sown too early in the year, some giving preference to those sown the preceding

Hardy Perennials and Biennials.

With the exception of some few sorts, which require a somewhat different treatment, the greater part of these are best raised in the months of May, June and July, in the manner recommended for hardy annuals, selecting, however, a somewhat cool and shady situation in preference to one exposed to much sun. Sow thinly, and when the plants are large enough, prick out on nursery beds to strengthen, and plant out early in autumn, or in favorable weather in February and March, where they are intended to flower. Early sowing is decidedly the best, as it gives the plants far better opportunity of becoming sufficiently strong to resist severe frost in winter, and to bloom freely and finely in the coming spring and summer. This is especially the case in reference to double German Wallflowers and Brompton Stocks, which should not be sown later than the end of May. These being less hardy than most classed as such, should have the benefit of a more sheltered spot when finally planted out which ought to be done, if possible, in July. Sweet Williams, unless sown early, will not all bloom the fol-

Greenhouse or Tender Annuals. The many fine varieties of such valuable plants as Balsams, Thunbergias, Amaranthuses, Celosias, Ipomoeas, Cockscombs, etc., are richly deserving of cultivation wherever facilities exist for growing them. Their treatment in the young state closely resembles that of half-hardy annuals, a good light and rich soil with a liberal proportion of sharp sand being nearly all that is required to grow them to perfection. The chief difference in their ulture, however, consists in their being sown somewhat earlier and on a stronger heat, also in pricking out the young plants as early as possible, singly into small pots; and as these fill with roots, shifting into larger ones, till they are transferred to the size in which it is intended to bloom them. The growth of the plants is very much assisted by occasionally watering with weak liquid manure, but this should be discontinued when the bloom is making its appearance, and tepid rain or soft water only should be used instead .: Balsams, although classed as "tender," may be planted out in June, in sheltered positions in the opengarden, and will make a fine display.

THINGS WORTH GROWING.

There is no class of annual flowers which has been so highly improved of late years as the double-flowered Zinnias, which may now be pronounced almost perfection. The flowers, which are large and perfectly double, range in color from white to the most intense scarlet, orange, rose, salmon, purple, etc., and, considering their easy cultivation, should be

grown freely in every garden. Cultivation.—The middle of March is quite soon enough to sow the first batch of Zinnias under glass. Successive sowings may be made till the latter part of April. Sow the seeds in pans or pots of light, rich, finely made soil, and place in a moderate heat. Soon as the young plants are large enough to handle, they should be potted off singly into small pots or pricked out into larger pots or pans to strengthen. To prevent the plants drawing up too much, keep as close as convenient to

sition with fairly rich soil should be chosen, and the plants should not be less than a foot apart. Liquid manure given once or twice a week before the plants come into flower will assist in the development of some fine blooms.

Verbenas.

Sow in February or March in pans or trays of light rich mould, and place in a gentle heat. As soon as the young plants have made three or four leaves pot them off singly into small pots, keep close till established, when they should be placed near the glass and have plenty of air, gradually harden off and plant out in May where intended to flower. Seedling verbenas are almost invariably very rigorous in growth, and if raised from a good strain of seed will produce some charming

Lilies for Spring Planting.

For growing Lilies in pots a compost of about equal parts of sandy loam, leaf-mould and peat is perhaps the best. Fine Lilies may, however, be grown in almost any good light and rich soil, especially those of the Auratum



GLOXINIAS

These, the most exquisitely beautiful of all green-house plants, bloom freely the first year from seed, and should be grown largely by every one having accommodation for them. Sow in February or March on a good moist heat. Pot off singly into small pots as soon as the young plants can be handled, and shift into larger as required, keeping the plants going with a good liberal warmth, and finally shift into pots of about six inches diameter, using a light and rich soil, and continuing with a moderate heat and giving air on warm days. Treated in this way, a charming display of bloom may be had during July and August, and some really grand flowers will be the result.

type. For single specimens use pots of about six inches diameter. These will be found very useful for house decoration, but pots of eight or ten inches diameter, with five or six bulbs in each, form grand objects for the conserva-tory when in bloom. Pot firmly, any time during spring, with the bulbs about two inches below the surface, and plunge the pots with their rims about six inches deep in some light material, such as ashes or cocoanut fibre, in ome sheltered position out of doors. When the stems have pushed their way well through the plunging material, they may be lifted and removed to a cool pit or frame till the flower-buds are developed, when they may be removed to the greenhouse or conservatory.

Tuberous-Rooted Begonias.

Cultivation.—For bedding out, the tubers of Begonias should be started into growth in March or early in April. This may be easily done by planting the tubers, with a slight covering of soil, about three inches apart in pans or boxes of light rich mould and placing in a gentle heat. Keep fairly moist, and when the plants commence growth, give air on fine warm days. Early in May they should be transferred to a cool pit or frame to harden off, keeping them as near as convenient to the glass, and giving an abundance of air during the day. For planting out, select a fairly open situation. Break up the ground to a good depth, adding some well-decayed manure, and make the soil firm and level before inserting the plants. Generally speaking, planting out should not take place before the latter part of May or early in June, when all danger from frost is over, and the plants should not be less than nine inches apart. In dry seasons they should have frequent waterings, and if the space between the plants is covered with cocoanut refuse or some similar light material, the soil will be kept in a better state of moisture and the plants will produce a profusion of handsome flowers. The single-flowered varieties are especially recommended for bedding

Cultivation in Pots.—The best soil for growing Begonias in pots is a good compost of turfy loam. leaf-mould and some coarse sand. Pot the tubers, any size, as early as conveni-

quire, and give them a watering with liquid manure about twice a week. When blooming is over in autumn, the tubers should be gradually dried off, and when quite dormant, they should be placed in dry soil, and put in any dry cellar or place out of the reach of frost till again wanted for starting.

Clematises.

These magnificent hardy climbers are highly popular amongst amateur growers, and considering their great beauty, freedom of blooming, and the facility with which they may be trained on any kind of wall, trellis, veranda or pillar, and in almost any aspect, it is surprising that Clematises are not found in abundance in every garden. The sorts blooming after June are the best for bedding purposes; they flower on the young wood, and therefore require before growth commences in spring to be cut down to within six or twelve inches of the ground, as likewise do all the late-flowering kinds; and early sorts, flowering from May to July on the old wood, should be pruned similarly to Roses.

Gladioli.

Hybrids of Gandavensis,-These beautiful flowers are fast increasing in popularity, and as decorative plants for the open garden should certainly be placed in the front rank. They succeed well in almost any soil or situation, and planted in association with Dwarf or Standard Roses, with hardy herbaceous plants, or on the shrubbery border, they have a very fine appearance. They also do well as pot plants, and are capitally suited for growing in outside window boxes. Plant the corms or roots firmly, three or four inches deep and eight or nine inches apart, in clumps of three, five or more, as required, and put a neat stake to each when the flower buds, make their appearance. March is the best month to plant for blooming in July and August, and by a few successive plantings in April and the early part of May, a succession of handsome flowers may be had to the end of September. Gladioli are of especial value as cut flowers for decorative purposes. If the flower spikes are cut and placed in water just as the blooms are beginning to expand, they will all open in succession to the topmost bud, and will retain their beauty for a longer time than if remaining on the

New Giant-Flowered Hybrid Gladioli.-An important and valuable floral introduction. The flowers of this splendid class are of great substance and gigantic size. The form of both the flower and spike is perfection itself, and they last a long time in bloom before fading, owing to their great substance and vigor; but the most striking feature is their coloring. Orchids cannot surpass them in varied and delicate shades, marking and blendings. Every color known among Gladiolus is represented, and many never before seen, particularly blues, smoky greys and purple blacks, all having beautifully mottled and spotted threats made up of white, crimson, pink, yellow, etc., and in this peculiar network of charming spots and colors lies one of its special points of unsur-passed beauty. The flowers are much more beautifully colored than Lemoine's Hybrids, and much larger than any Gandavensis. Even the beautiful flowers of the weak growing Nanceianus cannot compare with the regal beauty, size and coloring of this fine class.

Hardy Hybrid Gladioli.—This fine new race

of Hybrid Gladioli blooms somewhat earlier than the Gandavensis, and are much more hardy, so hardy, in fact, that their bulbs do not need to be lifted in winter. The flowers are very striking and handsome in appearance, all having conspicuous blotches on the lower petals, whilst the colors are very diversified and beautiful. These will be found splendid alike for garden decoration or for cut flowers.

Mimulus.

Sow the seeds in March or April on the surface of pots or pans of firmly pressed, light rich soil, cover very slightly with fine soil and sand, sprinkle gently with a fine rose waterpot, and place in a heat of about sixty degrees, not more. A piece of glass laid over the pot or pan will assist germination by ensuring an eyen moisture. When the young plants come up, keep near the glass and give plenty of air, and soon as they can be handled pot off singly into small pots, or prick out five or six in a five-inch pot to strengthen, give plenty of air and moisture, and plant out in May, or shift into larger pots for continuing under glass. A somewhat moist, shady position is the most favorable for blooming, and, when planted out, a north or northwesterly aspect will be best, and the plants should have an abundance of water in dry weather.

Lobelia

To secure fine plants for bedding out the following May, some prefer to sow the seed in Autumn, but February or March is good time for sowing if the plants have careful attenion and are grown on freely. Sow the seeds thinly in pans or pots of sandy loam, cover very lightly, and place in a heat of about sixty degrees, keep moist, and soon as the young plants can be handled, pot off singly into

small pots of light rich soil, keep near the glass in a gentle heat, and give plenty of air on fine days. Carefully picking off all the flower buds will greatly assist their growth, and they should on no account be allowed to suffer from want of moisture. Other excellent methods are to prick the young plants five or six in a five-inch pot, or, better still, to plant them thinly in shallow trays of rich soil, keeping a gentle heat, giving air, etc., as recommended. These will gradually form compactly-grown, sturdy plants, that will quickly produce a beautiful effect when planted out. Lobelias intended for pots or window-boxes succeed best when planted out thinly in good soil in an open situation, and carefully lifted when they have formed nice tufty plants; these will at once commence blooming, and produce an eifect that could not be otherwise obtained.

Mignonette

These well-known, deliciously-scented, hardy annuals are extremely easy of cultivation. Sow the seeds in the open border where intended to flower, any time from the middle of March to the end of June, and thin out the plants to four or six inches apart as soon as they are large enough to handle. For Winter blooming sow any time in August, in pots of five or six inches diameter, and thin out the plants to three or five in a pot, keeping them as hardy as convenient before placing under glass for the winter. Mignonette is one of the very best and most useful plants for bees, and should be sown in every available spot where they are kept.

Hollyhock

These magnificent flowers, with their stately spikes of handsome bloom, form grand and conspicuous objects in the flower garden during summer and autumn, and should always be grown where convenient. They are easily raised from seeds, and sown in January or February in a good heat under glass will bloom splendidly the same year. When grown in this way a light rich soil, should be used; the plants should be potted singly into small pots as soon as large enough to handle, shifting into larger as these fill with roots. Gradually, harden off, and finally plant out early in

Delphiniums

Beautiful hardy border perennials, with noble spikes of handsome flowers, varying in color from pure white to the richest blues and purples; exceedingly useful for cut flowers.

Pentstemons.

This beautiful class of showy, hardy, free-flowering, herbaceous perennials has been much improved of late years. The plants are easily raised from seed sown in spring on a gentle heat, and will afford a splendid show throughout the autumn months. Some of the varieties with white throats are extremely

Bedding Pansies and Violas

The Pansies and Violas are amongst the very best of our spring and summer flowering bedders. They are wonderfully free-flowering and pretty, and will thrive in almost any soil, but should not be planted in a hot dry position. A spot where they are shaded from strong sunshine for some part of the day, a north or west border, suits them admirably, and a fair supply of weak liquid manure in dry weather will keep them in splendid flower.

Pentstemons

A very beautiful class of summer and autumn-blooming plants that should be extensively grown. They form neat-growing bushes and throw up graceful spikes I I-2 to 2 I-2 feet high, covered with large, handsome Gloxinia-like flowers, and when planted in beds or masses, have a grand effect. They include almost every shade of color, from the purest white to the deepest crimson, shades of rose, scarlet, purple, etc.; are easily grown in any garden border, and are best planted out in April or May. By pinching out the leading shoots after blooming in summer, the plants will start into fresh growth and furnish a beautiful display of flowers quite into the autumn. For the general adornment of the garden, or for cut flowers, these cannot be too highly recommended.

Rhododendrons

The cultivation of these beautiful hardy evergreen flowering shrubs has been greatly on the increase since the discovery that peat soil is not absolutely necessary for their successful growth. Sandy peat free from stag-nant moisture probably suits them best, but they will do well in sandy loam or even clayey loam, if free from calcareous matter, whilst we have seen many beautiful specimens growing in ordinary light garden soil. The colors of the flowers range from the richest and most intense crimson to the most delicate shades of rose and pure white, the masses of beautiful bloom having a charming appearance with the rich dark green foliage.

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Hon. W. J. Bowser I hat the rumored Domi n that district had s with this zeal.

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Mr. Henderson figure

expended on repairs.

Mr. Henderson figured meant an expenditure of but on Hon. Mr. Carte sesting that it was mu per mile, he subsided in Hon. Mr. Fulton expl sovernment agent in Offor \$52,750, which included the Enderby-Mabel lake the Enderby-Mabel lake the Enderby-Mabel acter item appeared in latter item appeared in however, as \$8,000; and however, as \$8,000; and partment was asked for partment was asked for partment was asked for lake, which road was a badly needed, only the badly needed, only the would be here spent for beginning work upon th

Mr. Oliver plunged v into figures with the vi gether too generous tree the government when the were proposed for other cles were examined. Now were to be expended in while only \$10,000 were Alberni, and is these

Alberni, and is these of reated proportionally, reated proportionally, receive a grant of some also wished to know ho of wagon road were to be Skeena district.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: There a roads in that district a great many miles of the stream of the series were treated on the stream of the series were treated on the series while if they were the basis of population, some \$160,000, instead which was the amount of grant.

The vote was carried.
Richmond Dist On vote 153, Richmond On vote 153, Richmond 000, Mr. Parker William amused the house by amendment that instead that this vote should no that this vote should no an amount not exceeding as an amount which was a preliminary to furthe Hon. Mr. Cartr-Cotto