

My Little Flower Garden.

BY MAY LOMBER.

My flower garden is the delight of my eyes and heart. In front of my sitting-room window is a small oval bed, where a half-dozen tea-roses and as many geraniums find a pleasant home, also a heliotrope, a fuchsia, and two lilies. The sweet-scented honey-suckle and the lily of the valley are also in a corner of the yard is a ground where gay nasturtiums, white and blue convolvulus and portulacae of many colors are expected to make a grand display.

"Killing with kindness" has always been my favorite style of murder with garden pests, but this season I determined to reform in this particular, and to allow these treasures to enjoy life in their own way.

But my plants did not thrive. I could not stand this. A careful examination of my rose-bushes revealed those horrid little green bugs who put on so exactly the hue of the plant they feed upon, that one must look sharp to detect them. The convolvulus plant, also, which had grown finely, and which were crowned with pretty buds of different sizes, did not blossom, and looking closely into these clusters of buds, I found the large ones invariably eaten off just as they were ready to open, and within them perfidious green worms who were at the bottom of all the trouble. In the first place I tried hot water, which I had just seen greatly recommended for such cases, but with no effect whatever. Perhaps it was not hot enough, but I feared to apply it any hotter, and neither bugs nor worms paid the least attention to it. Then a cake of tobacco soap was hunted up, and preparing the solution, I filled my watering pot, and about sunset proceeded to pour it freely over the heads of convolvulus buds, over every rose-bush, and everything else that looked unthrifty. There was a decided movement on the part of the intruders, and efforts to "quit" were very apparent. After a most thorough drenching, I left matters to adjust themselves. The next morning as I glanced from my window, I beheld several blossoms of convolvulus opening to the summer morning, and going out to examine, I found that many of these were partly eaten off by their foes, but what remained had opened bright and free, and every morning, since, quantities of these fair flowers have danced in the sunshine perfect in form and color, and not a worm to be seen.

The green bugs had left the roses also, and soon these mustered courage to put out new buds, and all the plants have improved amazingly. To those who may wish more definite information on this (to me) most interesting matter, I would say that this tobacco soap is prepared in cakes of about a pound in weight, and may be obtained at any horticultural store, and often at druggists. I take a piece about an inch square to a quart of water. If the water is warm, it will sooner dissolve, but cold water answers very well.

After standing an hour or two, the water will be of a brownish tint, and after being well stirred may be freely applied, not injuring the leaves or buds of any plant upon which I have tried it. I find one application enough in many cases, but I administer it once in a week or two, as it does no harm, but on the contrary much good. It has not the "odors of Araby," but as tea-roses, those miracles of delicate fastidiousness seem to enjoy its presence, I have concluded to not dislike it, and indeed it is not very disagreeable, not half as much so as the disgusting pests whom it so speedily exterminates.—*Christian Weekly*.

How to Construct a Cheap Green-House.

Mr. Berckmans, in the *Farmer and Gardener*, gives the following directions:

A good green-house, suitable to an amateur horticulturist, can be constructed at far less expense than is generally thought.

We will suppose that our reader needs but a small house, say 24x12 feet. Our plan for this size would be to sink the floor two or three feet below the level of the soil; this has many advantages over houses built entirely out of the ground. The foundation walls should be made of brick, or where the material is at hand, of concrete. If the latter is used, dig a trench one foot wide to the required depth; line the inside with rough boards and fill up with stones, gravel and mortar. The soil of the inside can be dug out afterwards, and this will give a solid and economical foundation. The roof should be what is termed span roof. We object to lean-to or single pitch houses. Plants will require more attention in the latter, and must frequently be turned to prevent

growing one-sided. The floor is equally distributed in a span roof house, and is at a half height.

The roof should be formed of portable sashes, seven feet long by three or four feet and a half wide. Every alternate sash is secured fast to the sill and ridge pole. The others are raised and lowered by an iron bar attached to the sash by a staple. The bar can be hooked upon an iron pin in the ridge pole when the sash is open for ventilation. The interior arrangements of the house consist of a table of four feet wide on each side, leaving a walk in the middle. The ends of the house are to be of inch plank. A common brick flue running on one side of the house will answer for all necessary heating apparatus. The flue to be of bricks placed edge upon edge. When bottom heat is required to propagate plants or for other purposes, it is advisable to board up the side of the table under which the flue runs, one board to be hinged so low as to throw the heat all over the house if needed.

The tables are to be covered with an inch of sand upon which the pots are placed, and in a house of this description nearly all classes of plants can be grown. We do not advise, however, to keep the temperature at a high degree, especially if a miscellaneous collection of plants is placed in the house, as it would not suit hard wooded and half hardy plants to be forced in vegetation early in the winter, but advise that fire will only be made to keep the thermometer from getting too low in extreme cold weather. A simple covering of gunny bagging rolled on the outside of the glass during the night will, in ordinary weather, be sufficient to keep the temperature at the desirable degree without fire heat.

The cost of such a house need not be over \$150, if constructed in a plain but substantial manner. Where the work is partially performed by the amateur, a less sum will cover the cost of construction.

New Roses.

Of the new roses that have already been shown this season, I must give the palm to Hybrid Perpetual Star of Waltham, a seedling raised by Mr. William Paul of Waltham Cross. This is a very fine pale bright red colored flower, very full, with great depth of petal, and an abundance of them in it; habits vigorous and free. As seen at a recent meeting of the Royal Botanic Society, this flower was as near perfection as a rose could well be. Hybrid Perpetual Mons. Claude Levet is also remarkably fine; color shaded rose flushed with violet; large and full, and with a good free habit. Hybrid Perpetual Madame Jaramin is another splendid flower, and its beautiful pale bluish pink tint will be certain to render it acceptable to everybody. If the testimony of our leading rose-growers be of any value, this will prove to be one of the best of the new roses just being put in commerce. A thorough good rose is Hybrid Perpetual Etienne Levet, and this so completely established its character as a good autumnal flower that its general good qualities may be taken for granted. This is of a shaded brilliant rose hue, flushed with violet; the habit appears to be all that could be desired. Tea Madame Cecille Berthod is a beautiful bright pale yellow flower, of remarkably fine build and substance, and a free grower; it is a variety showing the possession of a great deal of refinement. Tea Madame Camille has full and finely cupped smooth flowers, with a great depth of petal; the color bluish on the exterior, with a bright salmon buff centre. Tea Madame Jules Margottin is a charming Tea rose, the circumference of the flower flesh white; the centre primrose and nankeen, in the bud state it is simply perfection; the habit is vigorous and free, and it has a most desirable upright growth.—*Quo, in the Garden*.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

Cultivation of Beans.

The soil on which beans seem to do best is a clay loam, but they will do well on any mellow, loose soil, where there is not too much vegetable matter, which will produce an overgrowth of vines. A sandy loam will generally produce the finest quality, but not the largest product. It is also important that the soil be of uniform quality, so that the crop will come to maturity evenly, as uneven ripening is apt to injure the quality, or result in waste in harvesting. If any portion of the pods are green at pulling time, they are liable to injure and turn black, which greatly injures the quality; or if the crop is allowed to stand till all are ripe, there will be loss in shelling of those that are over-ripe. A heavy clay soil is as unsuited for bean culture as for corn, and can not be made profitable for either; and yet in wet seasons some very fair crops have been grown on stiff, heavy soils.

The preparation of the land is not unlike that for

corn, excepting that it is not well to apply active stimulating manures, causing an over growth of vines, which would so cover the ground as to exclude the sun's rays would be most sure to damage the quality if not the quantity of the crop. Wherever the pods fall to the ground, the beans will be colored, or if only the end of the pod touches the ground, when ripening, one or two beans will be black, which necessitates hand-picking, and lessens the value of the crop. This can not be well avoided if the weather be wet about the time of ripening; but a heavy growth of vines renders the liability to damage greater.

It need not be told to any practical farmer that to make the cultivation of the crop easy the land should be clean, well plowed, and made fine and mellow by repeated harrowing. Good ground is a good preparation of land, and will generally afford as easy tillage as any; and if well plowed and well worked up before planting it will be less weedy; but the common practice is to let the bean ground lay till after corn planting is over, then turn over the land for beans. After the land is fitted for the seed, it should be marked one way, the same as for corn; though only every second row need be marked if the planting is to be done with the common bean planter, which plants two rows at a time, and thirty inches apart. It is an object to mark the ground straight and even, so that the cultivator may be run close to the rows and not disturb the plants. It is a practice of many farmers to roll the ground before or after planting to render the soil fine and smooth so that cultivation can be done without liability of throwing small lumps on the plants, and if done before planting, the seed is more perfectly and uniformly covered. The time of planting is usually from the 25th of May till near the first of July; but if planted late the early varieties are safer, as there is danger of early autumn frosts injuring them.

The quantity of seed planted per acre is about one bushel of the marrows and mediums, and a half bushel of the late variety. The planting machines used are calculated to drop from four to six beans in hills one foot apart, and rows two and a half feet apart. As soon as the beans are up some four inches high, so that the rows can be easily seen the bean cultivator is run through, as near the rows as is possible without covering the plants. The common corn cultivator is sometimes used, but it will not work as close to the rows without danger of covering or tearing up the beans. The teeth only of the bean cultivator are different; they are made like common harrow teeth, with points flattened to about two inches in width, turned forward so as to cut weeds and stir the soil without throwing a furrow to cover the plants. Nine of these teeth are used on a cultivator. Two or three times passed through the rows, at proper intervals, is all the work necessary in cultivation if the land is clean; but if thistles or weeds are bad in the rows, hand-weeding is required to clean them out.—*Am. Rural Home*.

PLANT OFFER.—The Cincinnati *Gazette* gives the following advice: One of the best rules the farmers or gardeners can follow to insure success in getting a good stand of tender crops is to plant often. Take for example, melons, squashes, cucumbers, Lima beans, and such other products as may be desirable to start early, and which often fail when planted early, and apply the rule at the head of this article, and success would be certain. Fit your ground early; make broad, rich, flat hills, slightly crowning, to insure dryness and gain warmth. Then plant early in the season, and one week later put down a few more seeds in the hill with the thumb and fingers; a week later repeat the planting, and, if the season be particularly cold and backward, and the first plantings do not appear, a fourth may be necessary. By this method success is rendered certain; but little time is lost, for the later planting will grow so fast as to overtake the first. At the proper time thinning must be done, and the crop is then handsomely started off on its journey.

The *Meat and Monitor* is informed that Mr. Thomas Jordan, Ephraim, has in his garden Early Rose potatoes of this season's growth, not six weeks planted, which measure four inches in circumference the smallest way.

PLANTING SLIPS.—The *Gazette des Compagnies* recommends to dip the extremities of the slip in collodion, containing twice as much of cotton as the ordinary material used in photography. Let the first coat dry and then dip again. After planting the slip, the development of the roots will take place very promptly. This method is said to be particularly efficacious in woody slips, Geranium, Fuchsia and similar plants.—*Farmer's Union*.