



THE HOME GARDEN

Garden Calendar for March

Dig and Manure Flower Borders which have not yet been prepared.

Plant—Hardy border plants, Alpines, hardy climbers, shrubs, deciduous trees, fruit trees, pot green-house plants, vegetable roots, Gladioli, and especially: Paeonies, Delphiniums, phloxes, Pentstemons, Hollyhocks, rock plants, Michaelmas Daisies, Pyrethrums, Gaillardias, Carnation layers, Pink layers, Pansies, Violets, Sweet Williams, Roses (if not done), evergreen shrubs, Pot Cannas, strawberries, Shallots, artichokes, garlic, sea-kale, cabbage plants, lettuce, cos and cabbage, potato onion, asparagus early and main crop potatoes in warm border, start Begonias, start Achimenes, start Gloxinias, Pansies.

Sow—Sorts that have failed, peas (early and second early), broad beans, Milan turnip, radish, grass seed, various kales, celery under glass, a little cabbage, mustard and cress, beets, parsley, early carrot, Couve Tronchuda, savoy, leek, brussels sprouts, onions, melon in heat, cauliflower, cress, 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, sea-kale, 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.

AN OUT-DOOR LIVING ROOM

THE garden is an outdoor living-room, but we are too prone to consider it a place in which to dig. We forget that it can be made as comfortable a place in which to receive our guests as our parlors, and it is certainly a far more enjoyable place to spend an evening after a hard summer's day's work in an office than a stuffy room in a house, or the cramped quarters on a porch.

The most important article of furniture for this outdoor living-room is something to sit on. Have some good comfortable chairs and benches on which you can rest after the strenuous work of spading, weeding and spraying. During these breathing-spells you can gloat over your garden and plan how to make it better, which will make you forget the fatigue of fighting the weeds and the bugs.

The commonly accepted garden-seat is a 'rustic' chair or bench made from cedar. If you do not care to go to the expense of buying them, they can be made easily. Use cedar poles which have been cut in the fall after the sap has stopped running; the bark will then cling to the wood, if cut when the sap runs, it peels easily. Paint all the cut portions with red-lead paint and countersink the nails. I do not like this rustic furniture nearly so well as that made of cypress and painted white or green. These seats may be had with or without backs, and straight or circular in form. Whatever you have, it must be comfortable. Have the seats well coated with paint to protect them from the weather.

Summer-houses, arbors and pergolas are really luxuries in the garden, but so much enjoyment can be gotten from them that you should have one of them.

Put the summer-house where it will command a view of the garden without giving it undue prominence, and plant vines around it to cover it. Have a floor in it, six or eight inches above the ground. Here you can serve afternoon tea, or the children—who will get as much or more pleasure out of it than the grown-ups—can play.

Arbors and pergolas can be made useful as well as ornamental. At the present time nearly every garden of any size has a pergola, but many times it is entirely out of place, for a pergola is really a vine-covered passageway leading from one point to another. Scores of the pergolas built nowadays start from nowhere and lead you to nothing. They may, however, be very effectively used if placed on one side of the garden, where they will screen the garden and its occupants from the curiosity of a neighbor.

If properly used, vases will add greatly to the beauty of the garden. In a more or less formal garden, they may be used along the tops of walls, on the buttresses, beside steps or in the angles of walks. In them half-hardy and tender plants may be grown all summer, and I have seen the German iris used in them very effectively.

Water is an absolute necessity in the garden, but the method of introducing it will depend entirely upon the purse of the owner. The cheapest way is a tap and hose, but a small pool or fountain will add very much to the pleasure one will get from the garden.

A small cement basin can be built for a hundred dollars. In it you can have goldfish and pond-lilies, and a little jet of water shooting up from the centre on which a hollow ball, an inch or so in diameter, is held. It is always very interesting to watch the stream of water play with the ball; you can watch it by the hour without tiring.

The method of treating the margins of the

pool must be settled by one's taste. They may project a few inches above the ground, or they may be covered with sod clear to the water's edge.

If your taste runs to something more conspicuous, you may purchase a cast-iron fountain. These can be had in innumerable forms and sizes.

Fountains may be used very effectively in connection with a rockery, the water falling down over little cascades among the ferns or other plants.

If you are so fortunate as to have a well on the place, do not try to hide it, but surround it with a good well-head. An attractive well-head can be made of field stones laid up in cement mortar. A more pretentious affair may be had in the form of a Venetian well-head. These are the capitals of old columns hollowed out.

If one has the fancy for it, he may go further than merely furnishing his well with a head. How appropriate an old-fashioned well-sweep would be for a garden of perennials, or an old-fashioned garden edged with box.

An equally charming effect can be had by putting a little house over the well, and from the rafters hanging a pulley, through which a rope or chain is run, on each end of which is a bucket. There is something fascinating about putting a bucket, hung in this way, down a well. The unrolled wheel squeaks and groans as it goes around and, as the bucket comes up, there is the splash of the dripping water and the scrape of the bucket against the curbing.

There is more sentiment attached to the sun-dial than to any other piece of garden furniture. As a timepiece it cannot be depended upon, because it records the passage of time only on days when the sun shines; neither would one wish to depend upon it if he desired to catch a train. But it is a thing of beauty, and a garden having one is the richer for it.

A sun-dial must have a solid foundation, and it must be deep enough in the ground not to be affected by frosts; for a sun-dial out of plumb can not be accurate, and gives one, upon looking at it, a feeling of unrest.

I prefer a plain pedestal, and such a one, made of terra-cotta, can be purchased for ten dollars or more; marble ones are somewhat more expensive. A wooden pedestal will serve, but it is not nearly so lasting; neither does it have the appearance of stability possessed by a stone pedestal.

What a delight it is when walking through a garden to suddenly come upon a Japanese lantern stowed away in a secluded corner. These curiously shaped stone lanterns are put by the Japanese, so I am told, in dark unfrequented places to drive away evil spirits, and it seems to me that we should place them in secluded places, not in conspicuous locations such as the middle of a lawn, where they destroy the beauty of the landscape.

There are numerous other little attractions which one may add to his garden, such as bird houses, wall fountains, gazing globes, gazebos and Japanese shishis, all of which will add interest to the garden. But do not make the mistake of overloading this outdoor living room with quantities of useless bric-a-brac.—T. W. in Suburban Life.

SOME PETUNIAS WORTH GROWING

It is surprising this family is not more largely grown, considering how easy they are to cultivate, and if well grown, what grand things they are, both for decoration and exhibition. Treat them similar to a Verbena; choose nice young plants about March, or any time up to July; give them good shifts and rich soil, well stake out, and you will be highly gratified, for some are certainly surprisingly large; colours not equalled by any other flower.

Petunia Hybrida Adonis—A very effective variety of the dwarf, compact growing Petunias, so valuable for groups, borders, or pot culture. Its flowers are bright deep carmine, with a bluish tinge and a white throat.

Giants of California—Most of the flowers are exquisitely fringed on the edges and are very large, the colors are rich and gorgeous, and others of lovely delicate shades; some have charming deep throats of yellow, white, black, green, or maroon; the flowers, moreover, are of great substance and very deep throated.

Amaryllis Longifolia

This elegant plant is but too seldom seen in our conservatories; it, as well as the rest of the crimson, can be made to bloom in May with slight forcing, and will continue to throw up their stately umbels of pink or white flowers throughout the summer. These bulbs can be wintered in a cellar, and are nearly hardy.

TOOLS WHICH MAKE GARDENING EASY.



THE number of tools which it is really necessary for one to have is not large, but if the amateur gardener tries to get along with a hoe, a rake and a spade, he is sure to have long, tedious hours of hard work.

The tool which will be most used during the season is, of course, the hoe, for the weeds grow rapidly. By using a wheel-hoe you can save all that backaching work. I kept a three-fourth acre vegetable garden in good shape all summer with one. Only a couple of hours were needed in which to stir the surface of the whole garden. This was done regularly once a week and after each rain.

The wheel-hoe is the handiest tool in the garden. It may be fitted with plows, rakes, cultivator-teeth, flat-hoes which work like the scuffle-hoe, and seed-sowing attachments. They cost anywhere from \$3.50 up, according to the kind you get and the number of attachments that you wish.

There are single-wheeled and double-

One trouble with all these hoes is that the operator walks over the ground he has already worked, and treads the weeds which have just been cut off back into the earth, where they take root again. With a scuffle-hoe it is different. The best way to use this is for the operator to walk backward, so that the newly-stirred ground shall not be walked on. Most of these scuffle-hoes have straight edges and are pushed, but there are V-shaped ones which are made to pull, the ends of which are turned up so that the possibility of cutting off a plant is removed. When using an ordinary hoe, one invariably bends his back. There is no necessity for doing so, but somehow, nearly every one does it. With a scuffle-hoe, this tendency is entirely obviated. You can pull or push a scuffle-hoe all day without getting a backache.

There is a scuffle-hoe made mounted on a wheel which is pushed 'steady by jerks,' as is the ordinary wheel-hoe. Although I have never used it, I like its appearance very much.

The spade is a necessary tool in the garden, for there is always more or less digging to do. For digging celery, I have found a small spade to be much better than those of the standard size, but if one has only a little celery it would not be worth his while to get one. If it is necessary to spade the garden rather than plow it, by all means do it with a spading-fork. It has four or five strong prongs. The difference in weight between this and a spade is considerable, so that by its use one saves himself lifting a good many pounds while digging over the garden. Besides, it is much easier to push into the ground.

A good garden line is indispensable. Get a good linen line and keep it on a reel. Keep it dry, or dry it out if it becomes wet, and it will last for years.

For weeding small plants like onions, radishes, and such like, a hand-weeder is useful. There are two types; one is like a hand with bent fingers and the other is a narrow band of iron bent at a right angle. I have used both with equal success.

A cart or wheelbarrow, or even both, will be found necessary. The best kind of cart for the small garden is one which has a platform with a detachable box; for whenever it is necessary to carry water in a barrel for spraying purposes, you can put the barrel and pump on it in place of the box.

For setting out plants, one can get a variety of trowels, curved, straight and angled. I have found the angled trowel exceedingly useful in setting out such small plants as cabbage, cauliflower, and the like.

March is an excellent time to prune fruit and other trees. If the trees are large it is often necessary to get up into them to remove dead wood or surplus limbs, but on smaller trees a great deal of this work can be done from the ground with long-handled tools. There are straight and curved-bladed saws which are good. The curved-bladed is the best, however.

For cutting off many of the smaller branches, the long-handled tree-pruner can be used. Pruning-shears are necessary. Do not buy cheap ones; they are always a disappointment.

Do you ever have any trouble in cutting asparagus? I did until I purchased an asparagus knife. There are several forms of these knives, but they are all made long, so that one can get down three or four inches under the surface of the soil to cut it and do less damage among the shoots which have started.—R. G. Converse.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

In the month of March there is a great deal of work to be done in preparing the garden for the coming summer. The first and biggest item is to complete the plan for the garden and order the seeds. Get your order for seeds in just as early as possible, so as to avoid disappointment and delay in receiving them, or getting the reply, 'out of stock.'

Prune the hedges into shape some time this month before growth starts. This is better than to wait until next month, after the plants have started to grow.

Frequently there are fruit trees on the place which bear poor fruit. In some of the limbs of each tree insert cions of good varieties by cleft grafting. Three years will be necessary to work over the entire tree.

Plant early, smooth peas just as soon as the ground can be worked. Do not attempt to put the wrinkled sorts in until later. They rot easily.

Have a hotbed and grow radishes, lettuce, tomato plants, eggplants, peppers and all the tender vegetables which must be started under

glass, and transplanted outdoors when all danger of frost is past.

Sow seeds of early varieties of cabbage and cauliflower at once.

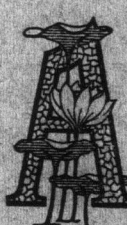
To get rhubarb early, over each root put a barrel, the head of which has been knocked out. Around the barrel pile fresh horse manure, and over the top of the barrel put a board to retain the heat.

Start asters, zinnias, stocks, and other annuals during the early part of the month, in a coldframe, hotbed, or in boxes in a window in the house.

Grass seed can be sown now if the ground is ready for it. These early planted seeds make better plants than the late-sown, because they have a chance to become well established before the hot weather sets in.

Repair the lawn where the grass roots have been pulled out, scratch up the surface of the soil, sow seeds and roll. If the grass is thin all over the surface of the lawn, scratch the whole over with a rake and sow about a pint of seed to six hundred square feet.

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF SHADY BORDERS.



SHADED border is to be found in almost every garden, and more often than not it is an eyesore. When the shade is not dense, it is a far simpler matter to make a success of the planting than if the border is heavily overshadowed and gets no sun at all. One of the chief things is to make a good beginning by having the soil dug thoroughly. Soil that gets little or no sun is generally heavy, and perhaps sour, and it would be useless to plant in it without making some attempt to improve it. It should be dug at least two feet deep, plenty of road-grit, coarse sand, leaf-mould, lime and brick rubble being mixed in as the digging proceeds. This proceeding will have the effect of making the border more congenial to the roots of the plants.

It will give them a good start, and in gardening—especially in gardening under unusual difficulties, as in this case—to make a good start is to make a bold bid for success. As a rule, when plants get established they are well able to look after themselves; it is especially so with those plants most suitable for planting in the shade.

To make the most of a shaded border the plants should be disposed in bold clumps, using the foliage plants as a foil to those with brilliant flowers, and arranging them judiciously with this end in view. Among shrubby plants suitable may be mentioned the Berberises, notably B. Darwini and the Mahonia, the Pheasant Berry (Leycesteria formosa), Gaultheria Shallon, Butcher's Broom, Rhododendron, Pernetta mucronata, double pink Bramble and the striking white-stemmed Bramble (Rubus biflorus). Then many strong-growing herbaceous perennials thrive well in the shade if they are well planted at first, such, for instance, as Pyrethrum uliginosum, Rudbeckia Golden Glow, perennial Sunflowers in variety, Miss Melish being one of the best, and Golden Rod (Solidago Virgaurea).

Michaelmas daisies will thrive almost anywhere if they have a fair root run. The Japanese anemone is, of course, one of the best plants for a shady border, and there is nothing more delightful to plant with it than the scarlet-flowered Lobelia cardinalis Queen Victoria. Lupines make a brave show even on a shady border, while Campanula latifolia and C. persicifolia may also be grown there with success. Nothing is much more delightful in a garden than a clump of Solomon's Seal, and this is a plant that thrives best in shade. Some of the lilies grow quite well in a sunless border, particularly L. croceum, umbellatum and tigrinum. Galega officinalis and G. Heldreichii may also be reckoned among plants suitable for a shady border. Commoner plants that might be grown are the Periwinkles, St. John's Wort, Ivy, Woodruff and Lily of the Valley. There are doubtless many other plants that could be grown more or less successfully on a shady border.

If the border is backed by a wall then it might be covered with Ampelopsis Veitchii, Vitis Coignetiae and other vines whose colored foliage in the autumn is one of the charms of the garden. Clematis Jackmani and Polygonum baldschuanicum are two excellent climbers for a shaded situation, and if trained on rough tall poles they make an admirable feature in the border. Some of the strong-growing roses, such as rugosa, Conrad F. Meyer, Dorothy Perkins, Aimee Vibert, Crimson Rambler and Flora thrive very well provided the shade is not too dense. If an ugly fence backs the border it may be readily covered with ivy.