

be done with perennials so early in the season. In this way unseemly gaps in the lines of bloom may be mended.

The clumps of perennials should be gone over, and all dead stalks removed, not by pulling them out forcibly, as this never fails to bring up some new shoots along with the old stalks, but by using the garden shears to clip the withered stems off close to the earth.

The columbines have been in evidence since the last week in March, and by April are some three inches or so in height, with the buds forming in the centre of the clump. Remove all the dead stems by clipping. Do take a close look at these plants. Did you ever see anything so delicately lovely as the closely-curved rosettes of metallic prune-green foliage?

The myosotis (forget-me-nots) have been twinkling out in tiny, fairy-like leaves, close to the ground, for a week or ten days. Have you ever noticed what ugly, black, ragged strings last year's vines have been all through the cold winter? Do not clear away these burned-up looking strings. Truly, they do not appear to have the least spark of life in them. But just wait a few days longer and you shall see what you shall see.

The pink roots should be heeled up with the garden fork to make them firm and steady in the ground. Do not move them away or attempt to divide yet.

PERENNIALS EASILY GROWN FROM SEED

Now, in the matter of growing perennials, one word, be patient. Perennials grow very slowly. Having planted the seeds, see to it that the surface of the bed is kept moist all the time. Cover it during the middle of the day, because the hot days of July and August will cook wee plants in the shortest time. If by Sept. 1 the seedlings are large enough to be transplanted, they will have a good six weeks of growing weather to make them ready for the winter. Growth will go on under the warm mulching that will be spread above the bed for the winter. Nearly half the list mentioned above will do well in shady spots. All will stand transplanting readily, very early in the spring. This collection I have given you will give an ideal amount of coloring, bloom and fragrance:

Pearl achillea, one of the most beautiful white flowering perennials; double daisy-like flowers from early June to September. Splendid for shady spots.

Columbine, content to thrive in sun or shade, these dainty, graceful flowers are unequalled. See descriptions above for complete instructions.

Hollyhocks should be planted as backgrounds. They belong in the same class as the larkspurs, and should have careful winter protection.

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

By April time the gardener should have removed most of the mulching from the various beds. It is never a wise plan to leave the heavy, rich manure on the beds until the last minute. Of course, one wishes the full benefit of the early rains which will soak through the richly nitrogen-laden material, carrying food and strengthening moisture down into the earth. But too much of this richness is most detrimental to the well-being of the various roots buried beneath the surface.

About the middle of March, weather conditions being favorable, the thickest portion of the straw and leaves and manure should have been removed, and a light sprinkling of straw spread loosely, but fairly thickly back again.

If this method is practised it will be found that all roots will send up stout, sturdy shoots, strong and vigorous, and well able to withstand the