

Second, we have *Zinnias*, a race of flowers which have become very popular since the introduction of the double flowering varieties, many of which nearly equal Dahlias for size and beauty. They get their name from J. S. Zinn, Professor of Botany, at Gottingen.

*Zinnias* succeed best when plants are started in a hotbed, and not transplanted to the open ground until well on to midsummer, and then they require a rich deep loamy soil, and sunny exposure. Most of the garden varieties are descendants of a species called *Zinnia elegans*.

The *Myosotis*, or Forget-me-not, which come next, below, have a special charm on account of their delicate beauty. The name *Myosotis* signifies mouse-eared, from a fancied resemblance in the leaves. There are some forty varieties, natives of the Temperate Zone, and very common in Europe and Australia. We have in Canada only one, *viz*: *Myosotis palustris*, which may be found in wet places; it has a small pale blue corolla with yellow eye.

The Forget-me-not is easily propagated by sowing the seeds outside in springtime, and no garden is complete without a few bushes of them in some moist shady corner.

The fourth, at the lower right hand, is a charming little annual, known as the "Swan River Daisy." Its proper name is *Brachycome iberidifolia*, and its native habitat is the banks of the Swan River, in Australia.

We have found this to flower very freely when grown on a rich sandy loam in a sunny exposure. The flowers are about an inch in diameter, and in color are chiefly blue or white, with a dark centre. The seed may be sown in the open ground.

No ornament to the table or mantel, can surpass a tastefully arranged bouquet of cut flowers; while the growing of them is not only a healthful employment for our women, but a study in æsthetics which cannot fail to benefit anyone who engages in it.

It is often a question how best to pack flowers to send to a distant friend, and this is well answered in the following, from an American paper:

"The best way is to pack the flowers in ice. This is a sure preservative, especially if a little salt is sprinkled over the crystalline surface. Another mode in which flowers are sent in complete preservation, even to Europe, is to pack them closely in two tin cans, covering the stems in moist cotton. Over all a layer of wet cotton is placed. At the end of the sea voyage the buds and flowers will be found fresh and fragrant as at the beginning. To keep flowers from day to day—that is cut flowers—it is only necessary to sprinkle with water, place the stems deep in moisture, and, if necessary, put a light layer of cotton over them. Flowers can be made to last a long time if carefully watched, but they require the delicate nurture of a lover of blossoms."