

THE HOME GARDEN

BORDER PLANTS

This class of plants has not received the attention from many of our flower lovers that their beauty and usefulness most deservedly entitle them to. The long spell of triple-season weather—sometimes winter, sometimes spring, intermingled with a few days of quite summer weather—that we have experienced during the last two months, has brought out more prominently than usual the usefulness of many varieties of late spring and early summer flowering plants.

After the gay galaxy of beauty in the border that the spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, hyacinths, narcissi, and so forth, give us, there is too often in many flower borders a period of comparative dullness before the better known and later summer flowering occupants of the border, such as irises, peonies, delphiniums, campanulas, and other varieties, help to brighten it up.

Spring bedding, as it is termed in England, where the cool spring season often extends from the end of January until early June, gives ample scope for the exercise of the use of the use of early decorative plants. With our usually short, uncertain spring weather, this system of spring bedding cannot, as a rule, be successfully carried out. Although we may not be able to have whole beds or borders entirely of these plants, such as pansies, violas, primulas, Phlox subulata, forget-me-nots, Alyssum saxatile, and others of a like nature, many of them can be used very successfully in an ordinary perennial or mixed flower border with marked success and effectiveness.

Corydalis Nobilis.—This perfectly hardy and showy border plant, a native of the frozen north of Siberia, should be in every collection. Its long, drooping racemes of pale yellow flowers, together with its attractive, and graceful fern-like foliage, make it a pleasing and showy object in the border in April or early in May. Very early spring or early in autumn is the best time to transplant this Corydalis. Corydalis bulbosa is another variety very useful as an early flowering plant. This, as its name implies, is a bulbous-rooted variety, very useful as a border or for rockeries. The bulbs should be planted early in autumn.

Phlox subulata (Moss Pink).—The several varieties of these beautiful dwarf little plants, with their showy, compact masses of pink, reddish purple, and lilac flowers, make them indispensable amongst our low-growing border and rockery plants. The varieties rosea, atro-purpurea, and lilacina are the most effective and hardy of border work, the different shades of color being indicated in the specific varieties mentioned. A mass of these showy little plants makes a very conspicuous spot in a border. The best time to plant or divide the clumps of this plant is as soon as they are out of flower. Avoid planting them on low ground, where water lies during winter. Shade and water after planting for a while.

Forget-me-not—Myosotis grandiflora (M. sylvatica) is the forget-me-not that succeeds best in gardens. The forget-me-not succeeds best in light soil and in partial shade, although they will give good results in the open border. Seed sown in spring or early summer will give flowering results the following year. When once established it seeds and renews itself every year, if the situation suits it. The blue type is the showiest, although the pink and white varieties are very pretty. No border should be without a clump of these appealingly pretty, sentimental, spring and early summer flowers.

Primula polyantha (garden primrose).—Primulas delight in a rather moist, partially shaded position. A hot, sunny position does not suit them. They grow readily from seed or division. The best time to divide the plants is as soon as they are out of flower. Water and shade them carefully for a week or so after planting. Seed sown in spring or early summer will produce flowering plants the following season. There are a great variety of colors to be had in garden primroses, white, yellow, lilac, and brown being the prevailing colors and shades. Garden primulas should be seen in every flower garden.

Primula officinalis (English cowslip).—It is quite hardy as a rule, and when treated as described for other primulas, makes a pretty border plant. In very exposed positions, however, in northern sections of the province, it is quite hardy as a rule, and when treated as described for other primulas, makes a pretty border plant. In very exposed positions, however, in northern sections of the province, it is quite hardy as a rule, and when treated as described for other primulas, makes a pretty border plant.

Primula vulgaris, the well known English hedge primrose, is also tender and requires protection in winter. Some new and strong growing types of the polyantha primrose have been introduced recently that are very effective as border plants, and are quite hardy in most sections of Ontario.

Papaver nudicaule (Iceland Poppy).—Plants of this pretty little hardy poppy that have wintered over will also give a fine display of its pretty shell-like flowers. This is one of the best of the poppy family as a cut flower, and is very effective for that purpose. Seed sown in spring and at different times during the summer will give successive batches of bloom the following summer. The Iceland poppy is one of our best border plants, especially in light soils.

The plants mentioned are only a few of the early grown border plants that the flower lover can have to brighten up the border after the gay, spring-

flowering bulbs have dropped their showy petals or have become dulled and dimmed by the approaching heat and drought of summer. The pretty little bunch of tufted pansy, Viola cornuta, Alyssum saxatile, and some of the dwarf early flowering veronias or speedwells, not forgetting the garden daisies, Bellis perennials, are quite hardy in most parts of Ontario. These and others could be mentioned, but more about them, if all is well, in a future number. In the meantime prepare now so as to have some of these early flowering beauties in the border for the next and successive spring and early summer seasons.—Wm. Hunt, Ontario Agricultural College, in Canadian Horticulturist.

A VARIETY OF PYRETHRUMS

One of the most useful of summer flowers is the Pyrethrum, of which there are many varieties, the double white apothecary, raised by Messrs. Kelway and Son, Langport, being the most perfect of its class. It is pleasant in the garden and welcome in the house, blooms freely and grows vigor-

STARTING PERENNIALS

A great many people nowadays are trying to "work into" perennial flowers, those which grow up year after year without planting every spring. Along with these may be numbered such annuals and biennials as self-sowing, and so are practically perennial. Perennials may be bought by the root and planted either in fall or spring, but as this method is rather expensive, many buy the seeds instead and sow them during the first half of August. The best method is to sow the seed in a bed or cold frame, transplant the plantlets to another frame when necessary, and finally into the borders where they are to remain. A protective covering of hardwood leaves should be placed over them for the winter. A great crop of flowers should not be expected the first year, but by the second year the plants should be resplendent. Among the kinds which may thus be planted in August may be mentioned foxglove, perennial larkspur, aquilegia, hollyhocks, perennial candytuft and gypsophila, golden glow, perennial sunflowers, forget-me-nots, violets, pansies, sweet William, daisies,

more than 60 degrees. At all times during growth (after taking from the trench) bulbs should be watered freely. The best potting soil is that scraped from about the roots of grass in old rich sod, to which a little leaf mould and the black soil from the edge of a barnyard may be added. The number of bulbs to a pot may be judged pretty well by the size of the bulb; if large, put only one in each pot; if small, from three to twelve, depending on the size of the pot.

WORK IN THE GREENHOUSE

Prepare for winter by repairing broken glass, in fixing up leaks in the heating pipes, etc. Don't wait until you have to use the heating plant to find out whether it has become defective. Paint the inside of the greenhouse now, when it will quickly dry and free ventilation can be given. Arrange plenty of space in the benches for geraniums, coleus and other bedding plants that are to be used as stock during the winter. By starting now, the old plants will be given time to make sufficient growth

season—it is well to be fully informed as to the treatment that will ensure the best results.

Cut the spike when the first flower opens and place in water without over-crowding. Remove the terminal buds soon, as this checks stalk development and throws the strength into the larger and earlier maturing flowers. The end of the stalk should be shortened and the water renewed daily with frequent cleansing of the vases. In shortening the stalk, cut diagonally to insure free absorption of water by the spike without the contamination and obstruction caused by sediment, if cut at a right angle.

The fact that blooming spikes in the shade of a room or piazza modifies the field colors from bright shades and tints to delicate flushes and shadings, and also reduces the latter types to the faintest tinge of color or white, is well known to experienced growers. The advent of new color hybrids producing the most intense and deep shades of violet, purple, crimson and scarlet, hitherto unknown, as well as new yellows and other bright colors, makes it desirable that these brilliant combina-

REALLY GOOD CANNAS

In planting beds of cannas select tall varieties for the back row. Here are a few suggestions of good varieties arranged according to weight and color:

Dwarf, 2-3 to 3-4 feet. Green-leaved: Martha Washington, Betsy Ross, pink; Buttercup, Coronet, yellow; Philadelphia, red; Brandywine, red. Medium, 3-4 to 5 feet. Green-leaved: Venus, pink with white border; Luray, Louise, pink; Gladiator, Florence Vaughan, yellow; Duke of Marlborough, President Cleveland, red. Bronze-leaved: King Humbert, scarlet; Mrs. George A. Strobel, Egan, dale, red; President Meyer, carmine. Tall, over five feet. Green-leaved: West Grove, Ottawa, pink; Wyoming, orange. Bronze-leaved: Black Beauty, crimson.

Anyone can grow cannas, and by a little care anyone can save the roots from one year to another and increase the stock. The roots are not hardy, and must be stored in a warm place over winter. After the first frosts of the season, dig up the roots with a fork, shake out the

they were kept to a fixed type, and through the gardeners' gainful work in their local markets and the enterprising seedsmen making an effort to secure some of the seed, with man and grower striving to produce the ideal and in some cases breed out the very qualities that made it desirable, because, under the conditions and for the purposes with which the seed grower was familiar, the qualities were objectionable rather than desirable.

Let us now consider some of the facts and laws of variability and how they may be taken advantage of to produce seed which will uniformly develop into plants of distinct and uniform character. This character from seed has a definite, distinct and changeless character. This character is inherent in the seed, and is made up of the balanced sum of different tendencies, potentialities and limitations of development inherited in different degrees from each of its ancestors for an indefinite number of generations, plus more or less influence received from the climate and other conditions affecting the growth and development of the seed producing plant.

The force of these different ancestral influences is by no means fixed or stable even in plants of the same ancestry. Were all the ancestors of a plant precisely alike and of the desired type, and the conditions for growth equally favorable, all the seeds produced by it would develop into plants equally like their common ancestors.

Under the best modern cultural conditions the environment of plants in a field is practically the same, but there is usually a great variation in the quantity and quality of the product, most of which variation is due to the differences in the individual seed. In the majority of vegetable crops the plants are so variable that if 50 per cent of them showed the distinctive merit of the variety as well as is seen in the best 10 per cent, the profit and satisfaction of growing the crop would in many cases be doubted. In many cases less than 50 per cent of the plants show the characteristics of the variety clearly enough to identify it with certainty.

Such facts show that however valuable may be the part of the plant breeder in the origination of new sorts, the great need of the day is not for new sorts, but for seed growers who will furnish us with better and purer stocks of the varieties we now have.

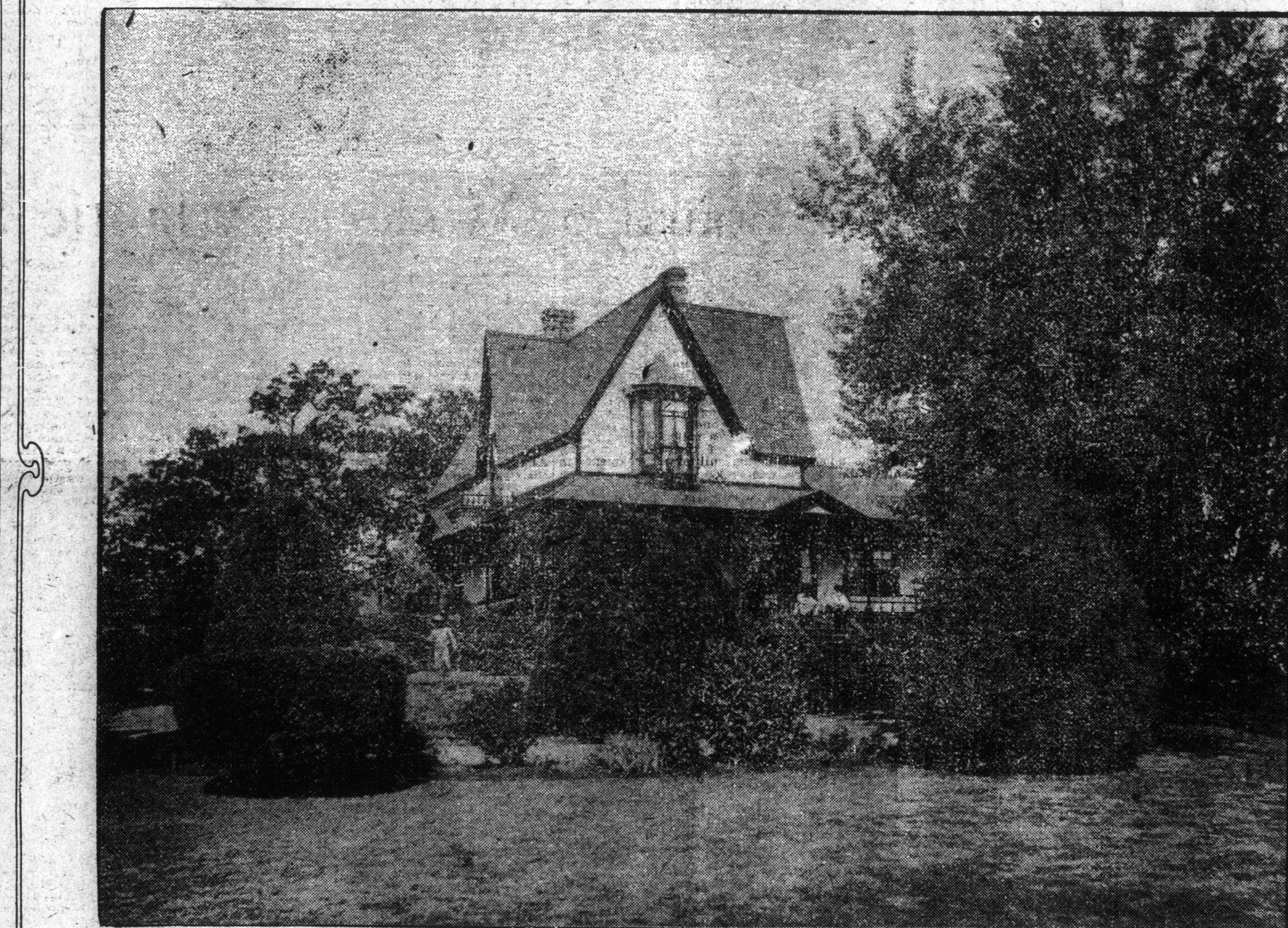
The fruit growers have done works of such men as Downing and Beach, with their full, accurate and clear descriptions of each and every variety of fruit, as well as the adaptability of the different sorts of certain places. The poultry fancier has, in the Standard of Perfection, a full, minute and accurate description of each variety of fowl, with the result that throughout the whole of this continent, each and every poultryman is striving for the one and the same ideal, and it is only since they have adopted this standard that the poultry industry started to make strides that have brought it to the front. On the other hand, in vegetables, where the permanence of a variety and the retention of its qualities depend upon a clear statement of its distinguishing characteristics, very little work has been done. Is it any wonder that the smooth-skinned Hubbard squash of 30 years ago, has drifted into the densely wasted Hubbard of today? Many claim that the quality has changed as much as the character of the skin.

When we remember that the relative influence of each ancestor may vary in each individual, and the great variation represented in the ancestry of the different plants of most garden vegetables, it is not surprising that some individuals are very different and of immensely greater practical usefulness than others, though they have faded to transmit their qualities to their descendants. The only way we can secure seed certain to develop plants of any exact type is to make sure that each and all its ancestors are of that exact type. To do this, we must have that type clearly defined, and in selection, rigidly adhere to it, and not be tempted into that type, even though they may appear inferior, or superior—Rambler in Canadian Horticulturist.

A Walk Round the Garden.—Though we may be enjoying grateful summer weather after weeks of cold winds and rains, there is much to be done in the garden. The prudent gardener will work all day in the garden, and in the week peas will require constant attention at this time, more so than earlier in the month. The flowers are in abundance, and they soon fade, leaving the seed-pod to develop and prove an additional tax to the growth. Remove every one as soon as the pods are full. Examine the plants for the most fragrant of flowers as long as possible. It is our practice to give some liquid manure at the roots in early August. Prune climbing roses, and in gardens where they have been neglected a great quantity must be removed. Thin out growths on the dahlias, and tie those remaining securely, but lightly, to the stakes with bast, and keep a watchful eye for vermin. We think the old-fashioned trap is still the best—namely, a small pot with a little hay in it, placed at the top of the stake. Examine the plants each morning early before the carmine have become active. Layer carnations, continue to take pink cuttings of carnations, as they are also called, and ver relax efforts to destroy grubs and caterpillars, which have been, and are, a persistent pest this year. Make a new strawberry bed, and remove the old fruiting canes from raspberries, and leave from three to five of the new growths to give fruit next year.

Lime for Soil.—It is not advisable to lime soil in flower beds, unless the soil is very poor, or only a little is needed, say one or four pounds. A quarter inch of lime would probably render the soil unfit for use for some time.

Seed Selection.—Under modern methods of culture and marketing vegetables, uniformity of both growth and product is of the greatest desirability. Generally, the more familiar man is with any vegetable, and the more intensive his method of cultivating that vegetable, the more he notes and values points of difference. From this it is but a step to saving his own seed by rigid selection. By this means some of our best varieties of vegetables have come into existence. In such hands



The Home Beautiful in Victoria

FOR CHRISTMAS BLOOM

One of the daintiest of Christmas gifts is a pot of flowers in bloom, and among the flowers in bloom at that time none are more attractive than the bulbs, especially the white narcissi and yellow daffodils, so waxy of bloom and fresh of foliage. A writer in Garden Magazine says he has had great success with these bulbs by adopting the following method: After cutting out the bulbs, he placed them in a trench, with a layer of coal ashes at the bottom of it to keep out worms. Next he filled up the trench with soil and rounded it over the top to shed the water, and when the ground was frozen over he placed a layer of straw on top of this to keep out the cold. The earliest flowering paper-white narcissi and common yellow daffodils were ready to be taken out in five or six weeks, the later varieties requiring longer.

Many people are puzzled to know when bulbs have been long enough buried, but this may be found out very simply by examination. Take out a pot, rap it sharply on the side to loosen the soil, then turn the latter out in a ball. If but a few white roots are shown, turn back and put the pot away in the trench again; but if a white network appears all around the outside of the ball it may be taken for granted that the plants are sufficiently developed to be forced for bloom. If does not follow, however, that all the plants so developed must be brought to light and heat at this stage. They may, in fact, be taken out at intervals of a week or two, and the succession of bloom thus kept up for most of the winter.

After the pots are taken from the trench they should be kept in a cool, light cellar, or garret, at a temperature of 45 to 50 degrees, until the foliage turns green and the flower buds are well developed; then they should be removed to a sunny place, where there will be a temperature of not

for another crop of cuttings before frost.

Attend to disbudbing of chrysanthemums, but do not "take" final buds before August 15, except in the case of early flowering varieties. For exhibition flowers select an August crown on nearly every variety grown today.

For poinsettias for Christmas strike cuttings in 2-3 inch pots shifting on to larger sizes as they grow. It is no use attempting to grow poinsettias with the temperature below 50 degrees. Propagate aspidistra by division, splitting the old clumps into small pieces to fit 3 or 4 inch pots. The aspidistra is the toughest of all evergreen house plants.

Calla lilies that have been resting during the summer and are now showing signs of growth, should be cleaned, repotted in new soil and started into growth. They will flower from Thanksgiving onward. Plants that have not been dried out may also be divided and be potted up.

Buy Bermuda stock of Easter lily (Lilium longiflorum) for Christmas flowering, and pot up, using a 5 inch pot for a 5 or 7 inch bulb, and a 6 inch pot for a 7 to 8 inch bulb. Japan green Lilium longiflorum cannot well be forced for Christmas, but comes in for Easter.

Sow cyclamen seed for next year's plants. Sow sweet peas for winter flowering.

Field grown carnations must be dug up during August and planted on greenhouse benches, shading the house until the roots have taken hold, and removing the shade gradually.

GLADIOLUS FLOWERS

As our whole interest in the gladiolus centres in the beautiful flowers—which for beauty and diversity in the whole range of color have no equals in horticulture, and their durability when cut for table and other decorative purposes is unexcelled in their

flowers are cut for decorative purposes.

To ensure this most desirable result, place the vases of these highly colored types in the early morning sun for an hour or two daily, preferably after renovation, and renewal of the water. This practice will also enable the retention and normal presentation of the original delicate tints and shadings referred to in the preceding paragraph, if so desired.

As it takes about three days after cutting to bring the spikes into strong blooming condition, this should be allowed for in advance of the date of intended use. The spikes can be shipped a thousand miles by standing them on end in suitable baskets or boxes. On arrival, cut off the end of the stalk, and remove the terminal buds before placing in water; they will then revive quickly and with proper care give pleasure for a week or more.

One of the causes of the popularity of the gladiolus as a decorative flower, is the fact that it has no perfume, and there are few flowers used for this purpose that are not distasteful to some one—particularly in closed rooms—either from personal preference or painful association. Where the pollen proves irritating to the tissues of the respiratory organs, as in the case of hay fever subjects, the anthers may be easily pinched out during the daily renovation, when the faded florets are also removed. This removal of the anthers is desirable in the highly colored types referred to, where the shed pollen dulls the brilliancy of the petals on which it may fall.—H. H. Groff, Simcoe, Ontario.

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London Times. The British Medical Association met on Wednesday. In the naval revolution, the army had been given a new lease of life. The navy had been given a new lease of life. The army had been given a new lease of life. The navy had been given a new lease of life.

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