



FLORAL NOTES FOR JULY

BY

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STIRRING THE SURFACE SOIL.—The hotter and drier the weather is, the more need there is of surface stirring and tilling the soil around growing plants, in beds or borders. By hoeing or stirring the surface soil to about an inch in depth, a loose earth mulch is formed that is as necessary and beneficial to plant life as overhead watering. In fact, deluging the soil around plants, as is often done by watering them from the nozzle of a hose, is oftentimes almost as harmful as it is beneficial, unless the soil is kept well stirred. Deep tillage is seldom necessary, and is sometimes hurtful, as it disturbs the roots of the plants. Light tillage and frequent is best in summer time, and is best done when the soil is fairly dry. Never hoe or tramp about on the beds or borders when the soil is wet and sticky. Leave the surface rather rough and lumpy, and do not rake it fine.

DAHLIAS.—These beautiful late summer and autumn flowering plants like a moist atmosphere to grow in. Syringe or sprinkle

the foliage every evening in hot weather, if possible. If quality rather than quantity of bloom is wanted, there should be only two or three of the strongest shoots left to grow. All the small weakly shoots should be cut out. If exhibition blooms are wanted only three or four blooms should be allowed to grow on a stem, the small lateral buds should be picked off. Cow manure diluted with water in the proportion of twelve pails of water to one of cow manure well mixed together and allowed to settle before using, makes a splendid fertilizer for dahlias, roses, hardy hydrangeas, or almost any garden plant that requires a stimulant to assist its growth. Once a week will usually be sufficiently frequent to apply this fertilizer. Orange, India rubber plants and palms will also be much benefitted by an application or two of this fertilizer during the summer, more especially if they have not been recently repotted.

CALLA LILIES.—Calla or Arum lilies should be started into growth about the end of July for early winter flowering. If it is