

Garden Work in October

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THE experienced gardener and enthusiastic amateur always finds this season from now until the ground freezes a busy time of the year. It is also the time to take stock and strike a balance sheet like the careful merchant, showing our gains and losses, our trials and triumphs, to reflect on the experience of the past season, to correct mistakes and to profit on the whole by resolving to secure greater rewards next year and to begin now.

WHAT TO PLANT

Every garden should have beds or clumps of paeonies, phlox, foxglove, and Canterbury bells, as well as shrubbery and a rose bed or border. We cannot ever get the soil too rich for anything, and particularly for our rose bed and tulip and other bulb borders. What applies to one, applies to all.

CLIMBING ROSES

For climbing roses, where planted near the house, the soil, which is invariably poor, should be removed to a depth of eighteen or twenty-four inches and twenty-four inches square and filled with the best fertilized earth. Plant your rose bush in it. Be careful never to put strong manure near the roots. Either put it deeply beneath them and covered with soil or mulched on top. In planting spread the roots out singly and have the hole deep enough to plant the bush well down. The rose should never be planted shallow.

You are often told about firming the soil. There are many reasons for it. Whether it is forest trees or crocus bulbs tread the soil firmly. The foot is a better gardener than the hand. The action presses the soil close to the roots, keeping it moist—it excludes the air and supports the roots so as to prevent the plant from being blown away by the wind.

Cut the rose branches back to a foot, or lower. This allows the tops to hold the stray litter or mulch placed on them. It also allows for winter killing back an inch or two and when the plant is pruned back, as it should be for two or three buds, it will be properly pruned.

Rose beds may be any shape that taste or convenience suggest, but preferably on narrow beds, which permit close watch and care. A bed five feet permits two rows of hybrid perpetual down the centre two feet apart between rows and plants, and a row on the outside of tea roses.

THE HERBACEOUS BEDS

Fall permits the division and replanting of your herbaceous beds. Many kinds have the habit of spreading by layers. With many kinds a herbaceous border should be reset every three or

four years, if not oftener, with the possible exception of lilies and paeonias.

Those having conservatories or green-houses will be getting in cuttings of plants for propagating; such as coleus, verbenas and all other tender plants; also repotting and wintering of garden favorites. Oleanders, hydrangeas, and other broad-leaved evergreens not wanted for indoor ornaments may be easily wintered in cool cellars or by digging a pit deep enough to receive the tops and covering over with a glass sash or boards, matting, and so forth, sufficient to keep out very severe frost. These deep garden pits are the favorite method in the middle states for wintering palms, fuchsias, and plants of a like tenderness.

In the vegetable garden the storing and sowing of the season's crops must be attended to. There are always some seeds that have ripened to be gathered and placed in paper bags for next spring's sowing, such as beans, peas, and corn. Leave your cabbage, carrots, and beets till the last thing before hard frost, when they may be lifted and stored in a pit or cool cellar.

Every well appointed vegetable garden should have an asparagus, rhubarb, parsley, and mushroom bed. Asparagus is so easily cultivated, there is no

excuse for not having a bed where there is room to plant one. A bed thirty by five would give sufficient of this useful plant to supply the tastes of an ordinary sized family. Many cultivators go to great trouble to prepare a bed for this plant, and as it is a permanent thing they are quite justified in this work. Select a situation that is well drained and dig it at least two spades in depth. This gives you a deep trench in which you can fill six inches of good rich manure, bones, and any other enriching litter which, if it does not decay rapidly, serves the excellent purpose of drainage and keeping the soil loose and moist. When the bed is prepared procure two hundred strong two or three year old plants from the nursery. This is sufficient to plant the sized bed I have mentioned, making three rows eighteen inches apart and plants six inches more apart. Dig out each row by the garden line a foot deep. Against the bank place your plant, spreading the roots evenly out, having the pips or crowns at least three to four inches beneath the surface. Fill in the soil and tread firmly, levelling it nicely and covering all with a mulch of three inches of old manure. Have a neat path on each side. Allow the plants to grow the first year their full strength



A Bed of Asters as Grown by W. A. Greenslade, Peterboro, Ont.