

Perennials Grown as Annuals from Seed

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THERE are a great many kinds of perennial plants that can be grown from seed, and give good flowering returns the first summer. Many of them are among the most effective summer flowering plants we have. To secure the best results, the seed should be sown early indoors in the greenhouse, hot bed or window. Unless the seed is sown earlier in the season than it can be sown out of doors, the plants do not flower until the season is well advanced; often not until the early frosts mar the beauty of the most tender kinds, so that it is very necessary to sow the seed early in the spring indoors.

Some of the best kinds that will help to make the border gay and bright, and that are easily grown from seed, are petunias, verbenas, antirrhinums (snapdragon), pentstemons, salvia, ageratum, golden feather, centaurea gymnocarpa (Dusty Miller), and lobelia. These are all suitable for planting in masses, rows, or groups in flower borders. Antirrhinums, pentstemons and salvia grow from two to three feet in height. Salvia splendens will grow to a height of three feet or more, while the variety "Zurich" or "Bonfire" grows to only about half that height. Petunias and verbenas are lower growing, about twelve to fifteen inches, while the four last named are dwarfed, growing six to eight inches, and are more suitable as edging plants for the border. All of these plants named are also suited for window or verandah boxes or for hanging baskets, if they are not placed in a too shaded position in summer.

Salvias particularly like an open, sun-

ny position to produce their long, brilliant, scarlet spikes in late summer and early fall. The pentstemons are very attractive border plants, the gloxinoides type having long spikes on which grow numerous large, bell shaped flowers, beautifully marked in a variety of shades and tints varying from almost pure white to a deep purple. The beautiful flowers of the pentstemons and their ease of culture, fully warrant their being grown more extensively than they are at the present time. The improved types of antirrhinums that have been introduced of recent years have also brought these old-fashioned plants into great prominence as bedding plants. These can be had in tall and dwarf growing kinds, one foot to nearly three feet in height. The dwarf kinds make a beautiful massed bed of themselves.

The large flowering "Giant of Califor-

nia" petunias have beautifully marked flowers of immense size, the fringed type of petunias are also very attractive. Some of the smaller flowering compact growing petunias are also becoming very popular as bedding plants. There is probably no plant that will give a larger quantity of flowers and more continuous than the petunia. The large flowering type of verbenas make a very effective border plant. Their bright flowers can often be found late in the autumn, long after the other summer flowering plants have been blackened and killed by frosts. This makes the verberna doubly acceptable as a summer bedding plant.

The dwarf blue ageratum like a rather sunny position, while the rich blue flowers of the lobelia are produced best in a not too sunny position. The Tom Thumb or Crystal Palace type of lobelia is the best for an edging plant, while the taller loose growing kinds are better for the front of windows or verandah boxes.

The Culture of Flowering Bulbs

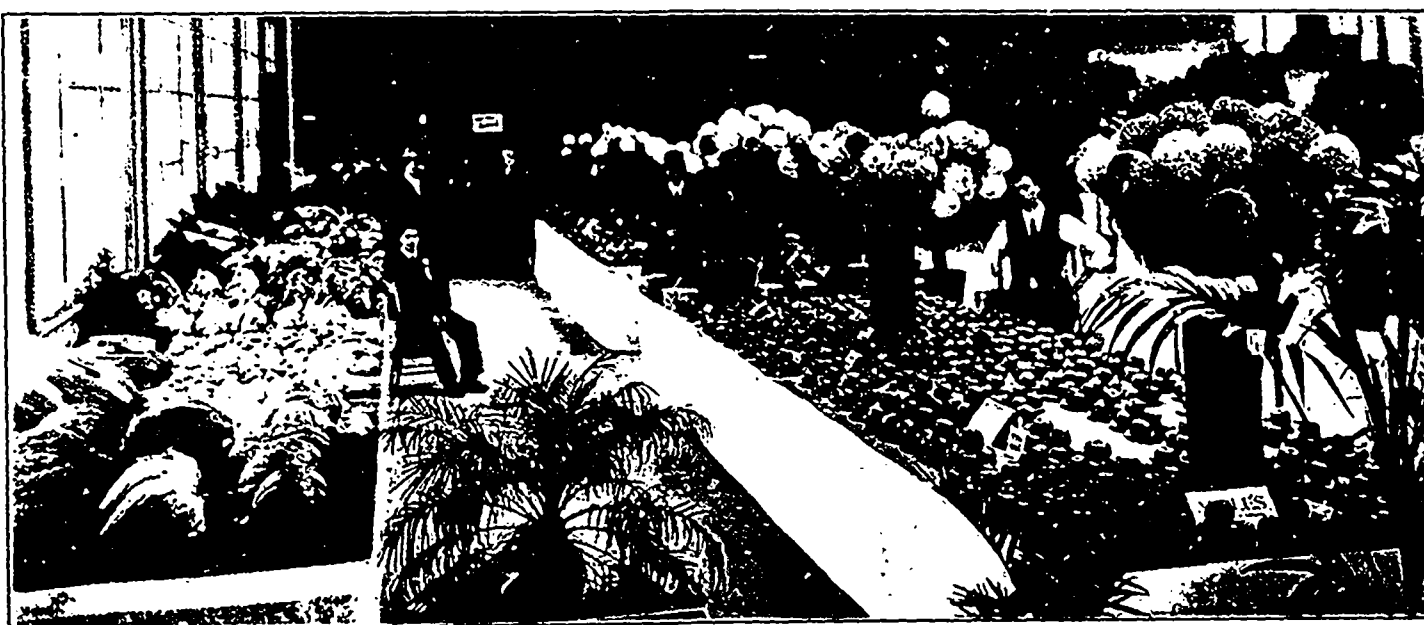
By H. F. East, Davisville, Ont.

Our popular flowering bulbs are obtained from many lands. They are exceedingly diversified in character, and they bloom at different periods of the year. Each variety has a value of its own, and answers to some special requirement in its proper season under glass or in the open ground. Not least among the merits of Dutch bulbs is the ease with which they can be forced into flower at a period of the year when bright blossoms are particularly precious. Bulbs endure treatment that would be fatal to many other flowers. They can be grown in small pots or be packed together in boxes or seed pans.

When near perfection they can be shaken out, and have their roots washed for glasses, ferneries, or for a small aquaria.

Their hardiness, too, is an immense advantage, and permits of their being grown and flowered with the least aid from artificial heat. Small beds and borders may be made brilliant with these flowers, and the number of bulbs that can be planted in a very limited space is somewhat astonishing to the novice. Unlike many other subjects, bulbs may be crowded without injury to individual specimens.

For the decoration of windows, no



Some of the Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables shown at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition 1912. The Exhibition this year will be held November 16th to 22nd.