

in at a time when flower bloom is getting a little scarce, and the show they produce is wonderful. The word "phlox" means a flame. The phloxes are of American origin, and blossom from the middle of July till late in the autumn. The range of their colors is very great. Nothing can quite equal the clumps of the phloxes in a perennial border made up as they are of those magnificent panicles of bloom. Panicles perfect in form, pleasing in fragrance, and varied in tints. Phloxes are favorites with all classes of people.

The fourth great group might be better named, but I call it here the prevailing flowers, for several reasons, one being that most of them are not affected by fall frosts. They last from late August till late October. Most of them belong to the great family Compositae, which has prevailed over all obstacles, and now stands at the summit in the evolutionary climb.

This group has a wealth of color. The white Shasta daisies, the golden sunflowers, the many colored star-like asters are in this group. By means of them the perennial border is filled with color even after the first fall frosts have nipped the more tender flowers.

OTHER VARIETIES

A perennial border with only the four or five great groups of flowers which I have mentioned would be very incomplete. Certain flowers which grow in the perennial border give the extra finish, the charm, the color, the life. They make it an artistic whole, a masterpiece. They include the dazzling Oriental poppies. (How much the border would miss the dazzling brilliancy of their scarlets!) the soulful campanulas or bellflowers; the majestic delphiniums or larkspurs, the glittering gallardias and pyrethrums, or blanket flowers, as the first are called; the delicate gypsophila; the flaming torch lilies, commonly called red-hot poker; the formal foxgloves and hollyhocks; the rainbow iris; the fragrant pinks; the modest lilies; the plume-like spiraeas, and the glorious yuccas.

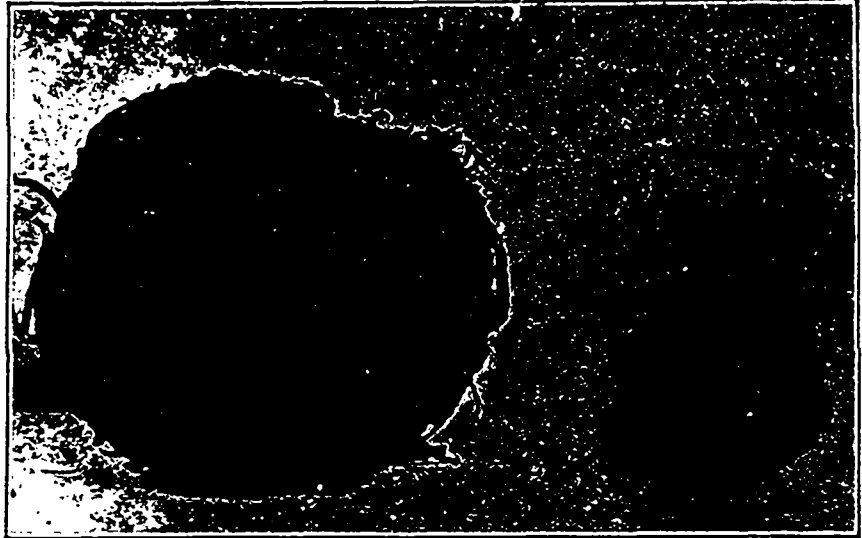
Growing Daffodils

R. S. Ross, Peterboro

"Can daffodils be grown from seed?" This question has been asked me recently.

In answer I quote from a book entitled, *Daffodils, Present Day Gardening*, by Rev. Joseph Jacob, (T. C. & T. E. C. Jack, 16 Henrietta St., W.C., London, Eng.).

Daffodil seed, when fully ripe, is black and shiny. As soon as it assumes this appearance, which will probably be some time early in July, it may be sown either in the open ground or in boxes or pans. Most raisers of seedlings prefer the latter plan, although I know one or two cultivators who think the former way the best, as they contend that the



Tubers of Tuberous-rooted Begonias

On the left is a typical tuber showing the hollow or depression on top. On the right may be seen an undesirable tuber. See article, page 67.

plants will sooner arrive at their flowering stage. I have not tested it myself, and am disposed to doubt it, as Mr. Engleheart, who ought to know what is the best, if any one does, always sows the seeds in boxes. Stout, wooden boxes of any convenient size may be used provided they are from six to seven inches deep, and have drainage holes at the bottom. The soil should be good, firm fibrous loam, with sharp sand added to make it light and porous. In filling up the boxes care must be taken to see that the drainage is good; then enough compost may be put in to bring the level up to within an inch and a half of the top. On this the seeds must be sown at equal intervals of one half to three-quarters of an inch, and they must be covered with soil an inch deep.

USE COLD FRAMES

It is best to put the boxes in cold frames, but the lights need not be used until frost begins, unless the weather is very wet. Then they may be put in when necessity requires, and, further, the plants may be protected by mats when the weather is particularly severe. The protection and culture in frames is not absolutely necessary. I have seen boxes just stood out of doors and exposed to all weathers, and the results have been good. The seed soon germinates, if it is sown directly it is ripe. Everything possible should be done to promote growth by seeing the soil is kept at the right degree of moisture, and that the growing period is as long as possible, by putting on the lights when there is a frost at night. The subsequent treatment consists in giving air on every suitable day, and top dressing the boxes with cocoa fibre when the grass-like seedlings appear. This keeps down

moss. At the end of two years they may be transplanted into beds in the open, an operation which is performed best when the young roots are beginning to be formed, say in June or July. They must be planted out straight from the seed pan and not in any way dried off. Attention to this matter is important, as it means very often the saving of a year in the plant coming to its flowering stage. In planting out, enough space must be left between the bulbs (which should for convenience of cultivation be arranged in rows) to allow them to grow and flower when they are pricked off. This will be in their fourth or fifth year, although some may not flower until their sixth or seventh. Frequent hoeing between the rows is very helpful to the growth of the young plants, therefore the rows should be clearly marked when there are no leaves as a guide.

The period of waiting will seem long before the first flower shows itself, but if an annual sowing is made, once this period is passed there will be a succession of flowering seedlings every year. It is a fact that the first flower that a young plant bears is not always a sufficient indication of what it is capable of producing. In some mysterious way the flowers improve as the plant gets older. Hence it is advisable to allow young plants that show any promise at all to bloom a second or third time before they are finally discarded. With regard to sowing out of doors a similar procedure must be followed. A sheltered bed must be chosen, and the seeds sown in hills about an inch deep. Transplanting into flowering beds should take place at the end of their second year. No protection is required, as the seedlings are perfectly hardy.