

there is an increased demand for Mowing Machines. In western Canada, the wheat suffered much from want of a covering of snow during the severe frosts of winter.

We are requested by Mr. Harrington to notice a plough which was imported sometime ago by a gentleman from England, and may now be purchased on favorable terms. It is a sub-soil plough, to follow the first furrow of an ordinary plough, and only loosen the soil 8 or 10 inches deeper. By that method, our informant states, crops have been more than doubled in England, where they now plough by steam to 3 feet deep. The plough requires four good, strong horses, or, what is better, 2 yoke of oxen, to work it.

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

(From the Gardener's Monthly.)

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

Taste has been variously defined. Perhaps it may be expressed as putting the proper thing in the proper place. In this view how tasteless are often the garden ornaments we see. Rustic baskets, vases, fountains, rock work, statues, all or any of which show to so much advantage in the hands of tasteful persons, are too often employed to great disadvantage. It requires much judgment to select the appropriate places for trees, shrubs, or flowers in the garden; but much more to place properly these more artificial adjuncts. It is not uncommon to see rock-work in the midst of the most artificially formed part of the garden, and vases in the wildest places. Good taste would reverse this rule. It is still more frequent to find a piece of rock-work of the most rugged character acting as a base for a large urn or vase. Last summer we noted in one garden, which on the whole, exhibited pretty good taste, an arbor of rustic branches leading out from the parlor door to the grounds; while down in one of the most retired portions, with everything natural about it, another arbor built by rule and plumb-line and neatly painted, and otherwise adorned, surprised us. Rules for these things can scarcely be laid down. Fitness must be born in one. It is hard to teach it. But hints of this kind often put one on guard, and thus serve a useful purpose.

The bedding geraniums have become so popular of late year, that every one now has some of the varied kinds. Few persons in the far away regions have any idea of the vast number of kinds used near

the large cities. Every one has a "seedling" to show the visitor. It is very rare to find a variety much different from others grown. Bust's General Lee, noticed a year ago in this Magazine, is perhaps the best raised in this section. It has much of the tint of the old Lord Palmers on, but is a regular petaled flower and an excellent grower. How it will behave as a bedder, we suppose the present season will decide. The double varieties have not produced very good bedders, nor have the tricolored-leaved varieties. These, however, are excellent for vases, or choice spots where the full sun will not get at them, and make pleasing contrasts with the deep shade of trees in a summer afternoon. For open sunny spots the *Coleus* is still one of the best to employ, and here the golden forms do not do as well as the green or purple kinds. The oldest, *C. Verschafeldtii*, is yet one of the best for sunny spots; but the color of it is much mellowed by being grown a little in the shade. Pretty combinations in partial shade can be made with this and the greenhouse begonias. The spotted caladiums may also enter into the picture, if moisture enough can be supplied. As a bordering for this colored-leaf gardening there are few things more effective than the variegated variety of *Vinca* major, the great Periwinkle. Some people complain that they have too much shade for a flower garden; but it is some satisfaction to know that these shady nooks are just the things for many leaf plants, provided the place is not too dry.

Very hot out-door places have been favored of late years by numerous succulent plants which do best in exposed situations. The *Echeverias* come in admirably for this. Two kinds, *E. metallica* and *E. secunda* are now well known, and are becoming cheap enough to be used in quantities with good effect. Some variegated plants stand the sun pretty well, and the variegated *Abutilons* particularly have been found of this class; and the blotched and striped *Alternantheras* and *Irisenes* do well also exposed.

In the way of silver-leaved plants much has been done within the few past years. As a dwarf, the *C. ragusina* or *C. candida*, as some catalogues persist in calling it, is yet one of the best; but it does not propagate as rapidly as some other things, and is still rare. There are some new ones very distinct from this, of which *C. Clementii* and *C. plumosa* are now getting known. Of pretty things not grown for either flowers or gay leaves, the *Moss-phyllum asparagoides* is becoming very popular. It is singular that this pretty little plant should have remained many years in old greenhouse collections, until a few years ago the Boston florists found out its merits in basket and bouquet making. The little leaves are like box-green and shining, but are on twining stems

which give the twigs great delicacy. It is a very nice thing to mix with vase plants. Most of our readers are, however, acquainted with this pretty plant by this time.

All our readers also know pretty well now that our very hot suns are not favorable to the Fuchsia. But besides this the red spider is very troublesome to them, and the heat often gets blamed for the insect's work. Wherever there is any yellowing apparent in a Fuchsia's leaf, see if the spiders are not at work, and if so, apply some of the remedies we have frequently recommended. The insects are small as dust, and require a pocket-lens to see them with. A few years ago a golden-leaved variety called *Meteor*, attracted some attention. It has now a companion in *Golden Treasure*.

Treen Carnations of late years have added much interest to the flower garden. They are somewhat straggling growers, but all can forgive that for the sake of their sweet flowers, which are produced one after another during the year. They do not like a very hot and exposed place, but yet are very impatient of shade.

As a rule, people do not think enough in spring of their summer and fall gardening, though all must be provided for at this season. The *Gladious*, *Tuberose* and *Tigridia* come in well for this purpose, and the bulb can be set in between the spring blooming plants without interfering with them. Then there is the *Pampas Grass*, the *Erianthus*, *Scarlet Sage* and *Tritoma*, which will make the garden gay enough. The *Dahlia* and *Chrysanthemum* are well-known for this purpose; but generally the *Dahlia* is put in too warm a place and it blooms too soon to be very effective. On the other hand the *Chrysanthemum* is placed in a bleak, cold place, where the plants get injured by the early white frosts. A warm and sheltered place is the one for them. The new style of Japanese *Chrysanthemums* is gaining popular ground.

In preparing flower beds, we often notice a mistake made in copying from European gardening. There is too much earth in them.

In planting out flowers don't take them at once from the hot house to the open ground. Set the pots out for a few days in a cold frame with plenty of air, or under a tree in a sheltered place. Before turning them out of pots, water; and when set in the earth, press the soil very hard about the flower root. If the ground be dry, the earth cannot be pressed too hard.

In this climate, Hothouse plants often make noble bedders. The Chinese Rose *Hibiscus*, is a first class thing, making a gorgeous show all summer. The *Geranium* also is getting immensely popular. The tree *Carnation* is also in much request.

Deciduous trees can be safely tr