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THE VARIEGATED-LEAVED WEIGELA.

The effect produced by planting shrubs of varied foliage so that the color of the leaves of the one shall blend harmoniously with that of its neighbor, or by contrast make that of each more striking, is ever pleasing. Our shrubs are not always in bloom, hence it is desirable that they shall be so grouped that the differing hues of their leaves shall present a pleasing picture. It has been too frequently the custom to place our shrubs singly on the lawn instead of grouping them, whereby we lose the opportunity of producing a pleasing foliage effect, and the benefit of mutual protection which they give to each other when planted in groups.

We present our readers with a handsome colored illustration of one of our most desirable variegated foliage shrubs, and trust that many of them will give it a trial; planting with it, yet giving this the foreground position, some of the other varieties of Weigela. All of the shrubs of this genus are very handsome, and a group made up of Weigela candida, Lavalleyi, rosea, amabilis, and the variegated-leaved variety of rosea, arranged according to their several habits of growth, would command admiration from every one.

The habit of this variety is quite dwarf as compared with that of the others, and compact; the leaves are distinctly margined with white, and the flowers are of a light pink.

With regard to the hardiness of the Weigelas we need more information. Mr. Gott speaks of them as sufficiently hardy at Arkona, and so does Mr. Roy at Owen Sound, while Mr. Saunders, at London, says they are sometimes cut down, and Mr. Beall, at Lindsay, says they kill down close to the ground. Will not our readers who have planted the Weigela have the kindness to communicate their experience for the benefit of our readers.

PREMIUMS FOR 1886.

Some of our subscribers have neglected to say which premium they choose—three plants of Ontario Strawberry, a yearling tree of the Russian Yellow Transparent Apple, a plant of Lucretia Dewberry, a yearling vine of Early Victor Grape, two plants of the Marlboro' Raspberry, or three papers of seeds, viz., Gypsophila paniculata, Aquilegia cœrulea, and Delphinium, mixed colours.