

IN A FAIRYLAND OF FLOWERS
Conclusion of Mrs. Dumbrell's Article
from March issue

Stocks

Is another annual which is a great favorite, and are very easy to raise. These too are raised in the hot bed, coming up within a few days after sowing. We transplant these in the open fully a foot apart, some varieties more than that. Stocks are very satisfactory plants to have, as we have them in bloom from the first of July until heavy frosts. The flowers are very sweet and have a wide range of colors, nearly every desirable color in a Stock. Try some this year.

Sweet Peas

This is a subject that I am very much interested in. But as the culture, varieties, supports and all the details would take a paper in itself, I will just touch on the most important points. Sweet Peas to do well should have the soil prepared the fall before. But as it very often happens with us it does not get done, so we have to depend on spring digging. The soil should be dug out about two feet and well rotted manure mixed with the soil. Sow the seeds and when well up thin out to have about four inches between each plant or vine. Provide support early for the vines to run on. Keep the blossoms well cut, as having some go to seed weakens the vines and poor blossoms are the result. The more you cut them the more you have to cut. Here is a little item I took out of "Sweet Peas Up-To-Date" called Sweet Pea culture condensed, in twelve words. Trench deeply, manure liberally, plant thinly, stake quickly, water freely, dispose promptly. Sweet Peas should be sown as soon as possible in the spring.

Now I find this paper already longer than I expected, but you will have noticed that several times I have referred to sowing in the hot bed. Our reason for doing so is, that using soft coal in the stove is not good for the seedlings. Also that they dry out so soon and very often damp off. We get much stronger and earlier plants by using the hot bed, which means early flowers which only last three months at the most in this country. I find that the culture of plants such as Pansies, Asters, Stocks, Verbenas, etc., are all alike. Plants that are tall growing such as Chrysanthemums, we put in the back ground as a protection and wind-break to the more tender plants. Give good soil and plenty of room so that you can get around them with a hoe. By a hoe, I do not mean a man's hoe with a wide blade, but a light hoe. There is one that I got from Rennie's last year which worked fine amongst the plants and was very light to handle, and being small you can get up quite close to the plant. But keep the hoe bright by using it and keep the soil well stirred up. A woman can attend to quite a large garden, if she takes her time and does not try and do it all at once. I should like to say be sure and use good reliable seeds even if they are dear, they are cheap in the end.

And don't be afraid to cut the flowers, especially Sweet Peas, the plants will be all the better for it, and how many people you can cheer by giving them a bunch. If you want to see faces brighten take a few bunches to such girls as you see behind the counters of the department stores. The poor creatures almost go wild over them. I find that it's not safe to put out plants in the open ground until the weather is settled and the ground warm, from the 24th of May until June the first, and some later than that, as we are in danger from late frosts.

I have also found it very handy to keep a record of the garden, such as when you started gardening and what seeds you sowed, how long they take to come up, their habits, and which are your favorites, and very often in that way you can save and settle disputes that sometimes come up. I also keep a record as to when the potatoes are first planted, when we get through, and all such stuff. You can compare one year's record with another and find many a handy thing; it only takes a few minutes in the evening, if you have your book hanging handy.

Selena Dumbrell.

GARDENING

The soil in flower gardening, as in all horticultural operations is of more importance than aspect or location, and whether it be a person of means or the working gardener let them be certain that the spot chosen is in such condition as will reward their labor's with success.

Soils are so varied that it is difficult to convey by description what the proper character should be. The best soil for all gardening purposes is a sandy loam, not less than ten inches deep. The subsoil usually determines the quality of the soil. If it is sandy or gravelly, then the top soil will almost invariably be sandy loam.

The question of fertilizers is an important one. If the soil is naturally a rich deep loam it is not necessary that any manure at all is used the first season, although in every case it would be an advantage, and is really essential if the soil is poor and light. To get the soil in the best condition for spring work, fall digging or plowing is the best, as the frost has had time to mellow the soil and it will not dry out so soon as spring digging. You can also get on the land much earlier by having the land prepared in the fall. The location of the garden when choice can be made should be toward the south and if sheltered by trees from the north-west many plants and shrubs can be safely grown that could not otherwise succeed without this shelter. Such a situation also permits operations to be begun earlier in spring making the season two or three weeks longer than if the aspect had been to the north or north-west. The garden should be well drained and have full exposure to the sun.

In planning for your garden a good plan is to draw a plan of the piece of ground and figure first where you want your vegetables, flowers, and shrubs. In this way you can save yourself many

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steps and know just what you are going to do. It's a great help. Put such vegetables as celery, cauliflower, and such like heavy feeders in the richest part of the garden, nearly every plant and vegetable needs rich soil, nasturtiums being an exception.

Put the hardy, tall growing shrubs and perennials at the back of the lot, the low growing ones to the front. Leave plenty of room for them to grow, and for you to work amongst them. They need a great deal of care and will well reward anyone who is not afraid to stir up the soil around them. Unless one is prepared to get a little sun scorch the plants will not give the returns one would wish. I know of nothing that will respond to a little care and nursing more

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It was Coming to Her

Visitor: "And what did you do when the shell struck you?"
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