



Toronto Factory made Beautiful with Vines and Window Boxes

"In selecting specimens I would suggest for bloom semi-double crimson geraniums, one to each foot in length; bright colored foliage plants, half as many as geraniums; two nasturtiums in a four foot box; in the front part of the box, for trailing or climbing, *Cobaea scandens* is the best vine, but the *miranda* is very good—say one of each. Many other plants might be suggested, but in our experience boxes filled with these have given much the best satisfaction.

"Boxes can be made of ordinary inch pine, and if painted a nice color, emptied out in the fall and put away in a dry place for the winter, they will last for years. Any one can make them as well as a carpenter.

"Our boxes are mostly sent to the florists about May 1 and the plants filled in, after which they are left in the greenhouse until May 20 or 24. Then they are safe from the spring frosts, and may be put up on the windows, and the warmth and protection from the nearness to the house keeps them green long after most of plants in the open are frozen.

"Any person who will take the trouble can easily choose the plants and fill the boxes himself, but it does not pay to do this in Guelph, as the florists do it very reasonably."

Give the children a flower bed to take care of. They will learn to love pretty things, and have implanted in their minds the ideas of order which time can never efface.—N. S. Dunlop, Floral Dept. C.P.R., Montreal.

Was Not Coffee

Frank Veal, C.S.I., of Bombay, India

My attention was called to an article in your valuable paper for March, headed "Coffee in Glengarry," in which a Mr. Gamble claims to have some coffee plants growing and bearing berries. This is utter nonsense, as coffee trees take three years to mature and to produce the berries known as coffee beans. Coffee will not grow in Canada, as it is a tropical plant and will not grow nor bear fruit in this country unless in a hot house.

The plant that is being grown by Mr. Gamble probably is the one known under the commercial name of Gram, the seed of which is roasted with coffee and used very largely for adulterating and flavoring coffee. Most people call it chicory.

If Mr. Gamble were to read Wm. Crashley on coffee cultivation in the Brazils, he would find that the coffee plant is a tree which often attains the height of 10 feet. It is not a vine. I have seen the trees growing in a small way in India, and they are much higher than four feet, and have branches the same as other trees. The pods of the real coffee contains only two beans, but sometimes there are three.

I came out from India to Canada to see if tea could be grown in this country, but find the climate would not suit. It was also my intention to grow coffee, cochineal and alloas, but none of these would be suitable. I have examined the ground carefully and find the soil also is not good enough.

Fungus on Wild Rose

W. T. Macoun, Ottawa

Is the black fungus growth on wild rose bushes the same as black knot of plum and cherry? The wild roses on my premises are covered with it. It is several years since it attacked the fruit trees.—C. W. B., Prescott.

The fungus on the wild rose bushes is known as the Rose Phragmidium and is distinct from the black knot. To eradicate this disease, which is a difficult one to deal with, it is necessary to destroy as many of the knots as possible, and then spray the bushes and the ground about the bushes, early in the spring before the leaves open, with copper sulphate in the proportion of one pound of copper sulphate to 25 gallons of water. The bushes should be kept sprayed until the middle of summer with Bordeaux mixture or ammoniacal copper carbonate.

Palms from Seed

A Toronto subscriber to THE HORTICULTURIST wrote asking for information regarding how to obtain palms from date stones. The enquiry was forwarded to Mr. Walter T. Ross, of Picton, who has had great success with tropical plants of different kinds.

In reply to questions regarding the time required to develop and general cultural methods required, Mr. Ross wrote as follows:

"The seed takes about nine months to start, but if cut or soaked in warm water, it will sprout more quickly. The plant afterwards requires only the ordinary care of a palm. The roots go deeply. I had pots made specially for palms, not so wide as the ordinary pot but much deeper to give the roots a chance. This proved to be a great advantage."

Sowing Aster Seed.—I have learned a lesson this spring about sowing aster seeds. We sow our seed too early in the season. I sowed mine the first of March, and before it was time to set them out the plants either grew too large or became stunted. They were in the house, and the necessary handling resulted in many of them being stunted and not doing well. The growth was very uneven. I believe that the first of April is plenty of time, and I am going to follow that rule in future.—C. F. Coleman, Burlington, Ont.

I prefer roses grafted on their own roots because those struck on wild roots sometimes die back, and when growth comes the wild shoots are the stronger, and the amateur is sure to keep one of the sort that is no use.—Edwin Utley, Toronto.