

## Spring Gardening Suggestions

R. S. Rose, Peterboro, Ont.

**I**N laying out your garden this spring, do not look only at the vegetable side, but take into consideration the flower side as well. We all know that vegetables are a necessity, as the times go, but surely one can spare space at the border for some flowers, as every woman in the house has a knowledge of and loves plants as well as the added beauty that the flowers give to the rooms. No woman, if she can get them, would willingly be without them. So why not let her have them? When she sees them coming up, she will look after them, knowing what they will be to her and also to you during their time of bloom. So again I say, in laying out your garden this spring include some flower seeds in your order to your seedsman. To those who have not included these seeds in their order, I will try to give an idea of what I think would be advisable for them to get, with also plans of how this can be done and yet not take up too much space from their vegetable garden.

For a back yard garden of say thirty-five by fifty feet, make a three and one-half foot bed up both sides, and also at the end of your lot. On one side have a perennial border of Phlox as a background of all colors. In front of these can be put four o'clocks and stocks alternately with a front border of sweet alyssum.

On the other side have a background of golden glow, sunflowers, and hollyhocks, salvia and asters in front with a front border of pansies. At the end of the garden use sweet peas as a background, with a border of dwarf nasturtiums. Vegetables can be grown in the centre part of the garden.

Another plan could be adopted, such as a yellow background of golden glow and golden treasure, with asters in front at the back of the garden.

Along the whole side of the garden a bed four by five feet wide, with a background of sweet peas and morning glories. Dwarf nasturtiums or balsams can be grown at the foot of these, as they protect the roots of the vines from the hot sun and also help to keep in the moisture. In front a pick and come again bed can be planted with such flowers as stocks, zinnias, sweet suttons, phlox drummondii, gaillardia, wallflowers, centaurea, gypsophila scabiosa, pansies, and sweet william. These are all good annuals and bloom in profusion, giving beautiful flowers for picking. As a border mignonette, candytuft, and sweet alyssum go well together, and will also stand picking, or pansies and phlox drummondii could be planted alternately. A wild flower garden in the corner makes a splendid show, and one gets some good

perennials as well as annuals in the packages. All gardens should have a wild flower corner, where everything can be allowed to grow in massed profusion. The balance of the lot can be used as a vegetable patch or made into a lawn to suit one's self.

Then again one can have a perennial flower bed at the very end of your lot, which will not interfere with the vegetables. The plants that are mentioned hereafter are all good strong growers, and give abundance of flowers throughout the season. The beauty of a perennial garden is not only in its bloom, but that it practically grows by itself, and when one who has not the time to spend in the early spring season sowing seeds and so forth, the perennial flower bed will be found a perfect blessing. It requires attention in the spring by digging in the top covering of manure which is put on in the fall as a protection against frost. In the summer all that is required is to keep the earth loose and free from weeds. The small attention that is necessary will doubly repay you by the splendid showing the flowers will make during the whole season from spring to late frost. The bed shown should be from say thirty-five to forty feet long and by about five feet wide. The plants should be planted two feet apart each way. They should not be crowded, but given plenty of room to spread. You need not, of course, follow the plan just as I have given it, as I am only trying to show the beauty of a perennial bed and what can be done with it. The balance of the lot can be plant-

ed with vegetables or left in lawn as one pleases. With this kind of a bed, flowers can be picked for the table or given away to one's friends, as it does the plants good to keep them well picked and not allow the blossoms to go to seed.

There are lots of other kinds of plants that can be used if one goes over any of the good plant catalogues that all of the seedsman who advertise in The Canadian Horticulturist will be only too glad to send if you drop them a post card. The outlay for a perennial garden is heavier than for annuals, but it is there, and there to stay. And they need not be got all at once, but added to spring by spring as the fancy takes you.

### PLANTS FOR SHADY PLACES

If you have a shady nook in the garden the following plants would do well there: A background of Columbine (Aquilegia), with Monkswood (Aconitum), Bleeding Heart (Dielytra or Dicentra), Foxglove (Digitalis) in front. Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium), Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum), False Solomon's Seal (Smilacina), Carolina or Indian Pink (Spigelia), Saxifraga Alpina, Primulas (Primrose), partial shade. Lilies of the Valley, Violets, Myosotis (Forget-me-nots), pansies, also do well in half shade.

There are many pleasing methods of training or growing roses. One is to take a long vigorous shoot of the previous season's growth, say of some perpetual rose, such as General Jacqueminot, bending it over and fastening the point of the shoot to the ground. This will cause every eye to break, and give you a short spur of growth, each surmounted with its brilliant blossom; an entire border treated in this way will give a perfect blaze of bloom.



8—Luxuriant Growth in the Garden of Mr. Geo. Vickers, Barrie, Ont.