

BULB GROWING: SELECTION OF VARIETIES, ETC.

Cloth of Gold; of the blue or purple, Baron Brunnaw; and of the striped, Albion and Sir Walter Scott.

Scilla Sibirica and *Glory of the Snow*, are equally hardy, and may be planted and treated in the same manner as snow drops. They bear a mass of richly colored flowers, which are valuable for cutting, as well as being effective for edges, or in clumps of a hundred or more.

Hyacinths are less hardy than those already mentioned, hence mulching is essential for winter protection, unless the bulbs are planted very deeply. For natural effect no better place can be found than groups in miscellaneous border, intermingled with other plants. Where the soil is heavy plant about three inches deep, but for light loam five inches is better. They may be left in the bed for two or three years, but each season will become less brilliant, as the finer and more delicate specimens die, leaving only the coarser and less desirable ones. A better way is to replant in some out-of-the-way place immediately after flowering, and when leaves decay take up, dry a few days, and keep in a cool cellar until ready for autumn planting. Propagation is more difficult than with smaller sorts, and unless one has considerable time, it is better to procure at least a few bulbs each year, directly from dealers, who in turn purchase them in Holland, where most of our bulbs are grown. Propagation may be accomplished by making two or three cross-cuts in the base about one-fourth through, from which off-sets are formed. These are separated, planted in nursery rows, and treated as old bulbs two or three years, when they are planted in beds or borders. The many varieties represent more than a dozen distinct shades of color, which should be kept in separate

masses or distinct sections of formal beds; for example, a row of reds next the edge of a bed or border, with blue in the center and white midway between, and intermediate colors for other rows. Both single and double varieties should be represented. For natural effect the former are especially desirable, as the heads are less compact, and individual blossoms appear more graceful. Roman Hyacinths, with their many elegantly spreading flower stalks, are hardly less desirable than for forcing.

If one of these three forms is to be omitted, let it be the double, there being little choice between the other two.

The Giant Hyacinth (*Galtonia candidans*) was suggested to me by Professor Trelease, who had noted it at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, as perfectly hardy and very ornamental. It attains a height of five or six feet, the solitary spike bearing from twenty to thirty flowers, which appear in summer. It is considered a valuable addition in places where plants of its size are wanted.

Tulips are planted in the same manner and given the same general treatment as hyacinths, except that they are set an inch shallower, as the bulbs are smaller; now are they taken up and replanted during the summer. When convenient, plant in a place partially shaded, as the flowering season will be considerably lengthened. Protection from the hot sun may also be afforded by spreading a light canvas three or four feet above the plants. Double varieties continue longer in bloom; otherwise they are inferior to single sorts, and as the flowering season can be lengthened, as previously mentioned, by different modes of treatment, I would omit double sorts unless planting for variety. The Duc Van Thol varieties are equally as valuable in garden culture as for forcing, and