

Success with Sweet Peas

H. M. Lay, Walkerton, Ont.

MOST authorities urge the early planting of sweet peas in heavy soil. My garden has a solid clay foundation, and I find it advisable to prepare the ground in the fall. This has been done by digging trenches as deep as the clay substratum will permit, and manuring heavily with good rotten stable manure.

Sowing in the spring is done as soon as the snow is off the ground, and varies according to weather conditions. It has been effected as early as March 24th, and is usually completed before the fifteenth of April. The best results have been obtained with American seeds, although I have tried both Canadian and English. Sowing is done very thinly, at least four inches between each seed. Supports are put in position before the seed is up as this avoids injury to the young seedlings.

The young plants seem to take most kindly at first to wire netting, but I have largely used two by two inch posts, about seven feet long, inserted about a foot in the ground and about ten feet apart in the row. Double headed tacks are driven into the posts, about four inches apart, before they are planted, and through these strong twine is strung. The end posts in the row should be substantially guyed.

During the growing season constant attention is required in tying the haulms to the horizontal strings with raffia. This keeps the bloom sprays straight. After the plants are up frequent cultivation and weeding is persisted in ac-

companied by a good dressing on both sides of the row, of good short barnyard manure. Towards the end of July feeding with liquid manure is commenced. Changes are rung on nitrate of soda, sulphate of potash, ammonium sulphate, soot water, Rex fertilizer, and infusions of poultry manure. These have the best results if given after rain or watering. A sprinkling of wood ashes along the rows is given early in the season.

Flowering usually commences about the end of June. In order to keep a constant succession of bloom until well on in October the flowers must be gathered so frequently that no pods are formed. In the very hot weather blooms intended for exhibition are kept from burning by some growers by being shaded with widths of cheese cloth stretched on frames above the rows. If one had time to take this precaution I believe that they would be well repaid, as some of the red and crimson varieties especially are soon spoiled by the mid-day heat. Partial experimenting on this line last summer convinced me of the benefit of shading.

The sweet pea is one of the most charming of flowers responding in the most generous fashion to the care of the gardener. After a lavish and brilliant display of blooms, some of which gained recognition at the Toronto and London fall exhibitions, throughout the months of July, August and September, the warm days of the late autumn still found many a beautiful spike of pink, lilac,

crimson and white gracefully nodding above their gray green hedges.

Angel's Trumpet

Bernard Baker, Whitby, Ont.

About the middle of May, 1912, I brought from the cellar a tub which contained the skeleton of a big nine-year-old Angel's Trumpet. I pruned back the bare branches and gave it some fresh soil. Soon it began to show signs of life, and leaves started to come out, long entire leaves of a rather light green color. The plant gradually grew until in September it reached the height of six and one-half feet.

Buds began to form in August and grew steadily. The flowers, tightly closed, broke through the gamopetalous calyx and extended to full length before opening. On the tenth of September, the first flower opened, and on the twenty-fifth there were at least fifty perfect flowers out at one time. The average flower was about twelve inches long and from five to six inches across. Inside they were a beautiful waxy white, with long whitish stamens and pistil. Without, the corolla was not nearly so waxy in appearance and not quite so pure in color.

One could best realize the full beauty of the big flowers at night when they were fully expanded. The waxy centre sparkled in the lamplight and the purity of the whiteness seemed then most striking. At night, too, the many flowers gave forth a pleasing spicy fragrance which permeated the air. In the daytime some of this beauty was lost, for then the flowers, with the exception of the very oldest, closed and the fragrance was not nearly so noticeable.



The Sweet Pea Beds in Mr. Lay's Garden, which produced the First Prize Blooms at the Toronto and London Exhibitions