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# THE SIMPLE LIFE

## THE HOME GARDEN

### THE GARDEN CALENDAR FOR MAY

Prepare, by raking over, the surface for borders for sowing flowering annuals.

Plant Hardy Border Plants, Alpines, Climbers. And especially: Gladioli, Gaillardias, Pyrethrums (cut back for late flowering), Delphiniums (cut back for late flowering), "Geraniums", Chrysanthemums, Hollyhocks, Clematises, Ivy-leaved Passion Flowers, Dahlias, Galceolarias, Phloxes, Pentstemons, Cannas. Re-pot many Greenhouse and Window Plants, Potatoes, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Celery, Lettuces, Sow: Every thing required for succession. Peas, Late Windsor Beans, Runner Beans, Dwarf Beans, Cabbage for late use, Savoy Cabbage, Cucumber, Radish, Late Broccoli, Winter Kale, Vegetable Marrow, A little Celery, If not sown, Brussels Sprouts, Spinach, Turnip, Beet, Horn Carrot and main crop Carrots, Parsley, Colewort, Onion, Cos Lettuces, Cabbage, Lettuce, Cauliflower, Ridge Cucumber, Mustard and Cress, Parsnip, Phlox Drummond, Marigold, Aster, Ten-week Stock, Nicotiana, Calceolaria, Primula, Balsam, Cineraria, Cucumber, Ornamental Grasses, Chloery, Everlastings, Salsify, Grass Seed, Scorzonera.

### CULTURE OF ANNUAL CLIMBERS

**F**OR most annual climbers a light, rich, friable soil is necessary to ensure success. Plenty of well-rotted manure, leaf soil, or black soil from the bush should be dug into the soil where annual climbers are sown or planted. For many of them, except sweet peas and runner beans, a very deep soil is not so necessary; they require plenty of good soil and lots of room, however, to spread their roots in.

#### Sweet Peas

Sweet peas require a deep, fairly rich soil to produce the best flowering results. A trench about a foot in depth should be dug in an open place in the garden. The trench should be about the width of a spade. At the bottom of the trench, place four or five inches of well-rotted manure packed down firmly. Fill the trench with good soil to within an inch or two of the surface. Then make a shallow trench the whole length about three inches in depth. In this sow the seed an inch or two apart and cover about two inches deep with soil, leaving a slight depression when the ground is raked over the plants. The plants can be thinned to three or four inches apart when the plants are five or six inches in height.

The flowers should be picked every day to help prolong the flowering season. If the flowers are not kept picked, they develop seed pods and stop flowering early in the season.

Sweet peas require plenty of water at the roots. Sufficient water to soak the soil to the bottom of the trench should be given once a week in hot, dry weather. Start watering the plants before the lower leaves begin to turn yellow to get best results. Light waterings are of no use to sweet peas; give plenty of water and less frequent waterings, rather than only to sprinkle the top soil. In rich, loamy soil it may not be necessary to trench as mentioned, but I find that the plants stand the drought and heat of summer much better in any soil when treated as I have described.

Wide meshed poultry netting or brush wood makes a good support for sweet peas. I prefer boughs of the maple tree when they can be had. The support should be five or six feet in height at the least. Sow sweet peas as early in spring as the ground can be worked properly, they cannot be sown too early.

#### Climbing Beans

Scarlet Runner and Hyacinth beans like a deep rich soil, and plenty of water, and succeed best when a trench is made for them as recommended for sweet peas. The east or north side of a building will suit these beans very well, if not too shaded; but with plenty of water they will grow and flower very well in the open garden. Bean seed should not be sown until about the third week in May.

#### Convolvulus

The common morning glory (Convolvulus major), Japanese Morning Glory (Ipomoea imperialis), cypress vine (Ipomoea Quamoclit), and the moon-flower (Ipomoea grandiflora) are all good annual climbers. As eastern aspect or a position where they are not exposed to the hot noon-day sun, suits all of the Convolvulus family the best. Seeds of the moon-flower are best sown early indoors, or in a hotbed, about the middle of April. About the end of May is early enough to sow convolvulus seed out of doors.

There is no more effective climber than the wild cucumber (Echinocystis lobata), for covering a trellis quickly. It requires a rich soil and plenty of moisture overhead and at the roots to give the best results. Its beautiful racemes of white flowers make it a very conspicuous object when grown properly. A position shaded from the noonday sun on the east or northeast side of a building suits best, so as to hold its foliage in good color.

#### Japanese Hop

Japanese Hop (Humulus Japonicus). Both the plain and variegated types of this plant are very pretty climbers. Sow the seed out of doors about the end of May. These do not object to a more sunny position than some climbers.

#### Ornamental Gourds

Ornamental gourds are suitable only for the back yard or for covering an unsightly rubbish

pile, or, at best, some place not too prominent in the garden. The shape of the fruit of many varieties makes them a curiosity. From a decorative point of view the running vine varieties of the vegetable marrow squash are almost as pretty. The fruit of the last named is useful for culinary purposes.

Cobea scandens is not an annual really, but like other perennial plants succeeds well grown from seed as an annual. Seeds of this should be sown indoors or in a hotbed or frame as early as possible in April. Sow three or four seeds in a three-inch pot. Place the seeds on edge about a quarter of an inch under the surface of the soil. Grow indoors or in a hotbed until danger of frost is over. Do not plant out of doors until quite late, about the first or second week in June or later. A light rich soil suits this climber. Its blue and white cup-and-saucer shaped flowers are very showy.

#### Dwarf Growing Climbers

The climbers already mentioned grow to from ten to twenty feet in height. The following are two varieties not so rank in growth and more suitable for window boxes or rustic stands as trailers or climbers; seeds of these should be sown early, two or three in a pot: Canary Creeper (Tropaeolum Canariense), and Lophospermum scandens. The latter is a very effective trailer for hanging baskets or window boxes. Its large purple gloxinia-like flowers are very showy.

liage being burned by the hot sun.—Canadian Horticulturist.

### SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS

For years I have planted hundreds of tender bulbs every spring, and throughout all the months of the summers, have obtained from them splendid masses of bloom to reward me for the little labor the planting involved. Considering all their excellent qualities, it has always been strange to me that more bulbs of this class are not set out each spring. Not only are they easier than annuals to establish, but they require less care and cultivation, supply more blossom, are always surer in results and are much more quickly put in the beds in the spring. They are all known, of course, as tender bulbs. They will not endure the winters except in the South, but after blooming and ripening, are dug up and stored away to be replanted the following spring. Among the most important species of this class are the agapanthus, alstroemeria, tuberous begonia, bessere, canna, caladium, cooperia, crinum, dahlia, gladiolus, madeira vine, montbretia, oxalis, calla, tigridia, tuberose, and zephyranthes.

No flower is easier of culture, or less doubtful so far as success is concerned, than the dahlia. We have the single and pompon, the show, the quilled and fancy, the decorative and the cactus varieties. The hundreds of shades and colors and the beautiful forms as well as

varieties are: Camelia, dwarf, orange-scarlet; Peace, pure white; Wunderkind, dwarf, light yellow; Catherine, pure yellow; Snowclad, a splendid white; Sunshine, vivid scarlet, and Darkness, a velvety maroon.

Following the dahlias in popularity and praise are the gladioli. They may be planted either in separate beds or among perennials, where they will add gay colors to borders which might otherwise be bare. Gladioli should be planted as early in the season as the ground can be worked, and every two weeks thereafter until July for a succession of bloom. They prefer a sunny situation, a rich soil and plenty of moisture, and should be planted six inches deep, seven or eight inches apart.

All gardeners are acquainted with this splendid family, and any comment on its decorative value and usefulness for cutting is needless. Not all, however, realize what splendid plants have been produced in recent years by specialists. Each season adds new varieties to the list, and it is always well to obtain a few of these new bulbs to lend additional interest to the pleasure of growing them. The common varieties are all cheap and a little extra expenditure for novelties will be well repaid. The tuberous-rooted begonia is valuable because it will flower in shady situations. In a spot where other flowers have persistently refused to grow, the tuberous-rooted begonia will frequently be found at its best. They are best started in the house during March and April in pots and then planted

extensively planted, and of easy culture. In the caladiums much improvement has also been shown. Hildegard Nehrling is a new variety with very large leaves, marbled with a deep green on a white ground. Lord Derby is another of variegated foliage. Caladium Esculentum should be in every garden. It is one of the most effective plants of the sort grown, easily raised and always attractive. Among the best varieties of the fancy-leaved caladiums are:

Annibal—Deep green ground with bright crimson ribs and veins.

Candidum—White ground with strongly-marked green ribs.

Chantini—Red ground with white spots and green margin.

Clio—Deep rose ground with white shadings and green ribs.

Corcovada—White markings on green ground, carmine ribs.

Devnick—Delicate rose centre, green border and white spots.

Esmond Moreau—Mottled green ground with red centre.

Joas Capderville—Pale green with blood-red spots.

Jose Bonifacio—Cream-colored ground with red ribs.

Jurua—White ground, shading to green at edges.

L'Albane—White ground with deep green ribs. These should never be planted out of doors before the middle of May in the North, when the ground has become thoroughly warm. Select a partly shaded situation for them where they will be sheltered from strong winds, and plant in a light, well-enriched soil.

Among the summer flowering bulbs and tuberous-rooted plants are several vines which prove exceedingly valuable. Most city yards possess some objectionable spot or object which it is desirable to conceal from sight; this may be accomplished by the use of annual or perennial vines. But annuals, while they are quick-growing, are objectionable owing to the fact that they must be replanted each year; perennials, on the other hand, frequently require from two to three seasons to establish themselves. Between these two come the bulbous vines. They are quick growing and, when once planted, require no further attention, thus combining the advantages of both annual and perennial. Moreover, they are inexpensive. Foremost among these is the Madeira vine, which attains a considerable height in a very short space of time. The foliage is dense and the flower small and white. The Cinnamon vine, with glossy, green, heart-shaped leaves and very fragrant racemes of white flowers, grows to a greater height and blooms in August. Another fine climbing plant is the Kudza vine, which possesses magnificent foliage, deep and dense, and makes a wonderfully rapid growth the first season. It comes from Japan and is very extensively planted. A native vine is Apios tuberosa, which seems to be more appreciated in England than at home; its special features are its adaptability to situations in absolute shade and its beautiful flowers of pleasing fragrance. It grows rapidly and blooms in July.—Tarkington Baker.

### SCENTED-LEAVED PELARGONIUMS

In the history of gardening there was a time when the scented-leaved Pelargoniums were more extensively cultivated than they are at the present day. The passion for novelties and the enormous number of plants now at the command of the gardener probably accounts for the change in taste, but, where possible, a selection of the Cape species should certainly be cultivated, for though the flowers are small they are often beautifully and delicately marked, and the fragrant foliage possessed by many is compensation for lack of more showy qualities.

One frequently sees scented-leaved "Geraniums," as they are popularly called, in cottage windows, turning their leaves and flowers towards the light, but in more pretentious places the showy fonal and Ivy-leaved varieties have displaced them.

Some species are worth growing as foliage plants alone for the sake of the form of the leaves, which is often as elegant and varied as are the fronds of some of the most beautiful Ferns. These, when well grown, make excellent subjects for table or window decoration, and harmonize in almost any group of flowering plants. A selection of the best varieties most suitable for cultivating as foliage plants is as follows:

P. filicifolium odoratum is probably a form of P. denticulatum, with finely divided leaves, suggesting, as its name implies, the fronds of a Fern. It is a very fragrant variety.

Lady Mary.—Leaves of medium size with undulating notched margins; Citron scented.

Lady Plymouth.—A very attractive variety with deeply cut fragrant leaves, beautifully variegated with white on a green ground. It is one of the best of the cut-leaved varieties.

Little Gem.—Leaves deeply lobed with toothed margins; Peppermint-scented. Flowers bright rose colored.

Stag's Horn.—As indicated by its name, this variety has leaves beautifully cut and lobed in a variety of ways, with the margins finely toothed and crisped; a very attractive foliage plant.



the grace of the plant and its value for cutting, give this flower an exalted position which it well deserves.

Dahlias require a rich soil, and the ground for their reception should be deeply dug, well worked and liberally supplied with fertilizer. It is always best when planting the tubers to insert at the same time a stake to which the plants later may be tied. In extremely dry weather, mulch the beds with well-decayed manure, or grass clippings, and, to insure a succession of bloom, pick the flowers as they appear. In planting, avoid crowding, allowing three feet between the tubers of the tall-growing varieties and two feet between the dwarf sorts.

Although the Cactus and Pompon dahlias are most frequently planted, in the last two or three years interest in the single varieties has much increased. These are all splendid for the garden, and especially for cut-flower purposes. They are of free-branching habit, flowering early and bearing many blossoms throughout the season. Oftentimes the flowers are five or six inches in diameter on stems twenty-four inches long. Good varieties of this section are: Crimson Century, a rich, velvety crimson; Scarlet Century, brilliant scarlet with golden disc; White Century, pure white; Twentieth Century, rosy early in the season and becoming lighter as the summer advances, and Blackbird, a dark maroon variety.

Good varieties in the Cactus section are: Brunhilde, plum; Cornucopia, vermilion; Gabriel, white; Volker, yellow, and Kriemhilde, a brilliant pink. Among the Pompons, good

out of doors the latter part of May. If started early enough indoors, they will be in bloom in the middle of June and will continue to flower until frost. They thrive best in a rich, loose, moisture-retaining soil, and prefer a considerable quantity of leaf-mould, to which has been added a liberal amount of sharp sand. The bulbs should be planted three inches deep and ten or twelve inches apart.

Montbretias are desirable when planted in groups of fifty or a hundred bulbs. The bulbs are planted in the spring about four inches deep, and will prove hardy when afforded a winter protection of litter four or five inches deep. The specialists have recently turned their attention to this family and nowadays finer flowers than ever can be had from the numerous new varieties offered. America is a splendid sort only recently introduced; it has the quality of opening many of its flowers at the same time. George Davidson is another that should be liberally planted; its flower stems are often three feet long and the flowers are so disposed that all can be seen at once. Both are yellow in color. Germania, orange-scarlet, is another good variety, and others to be recommended are Gerbe d'Or, Pottii Grandiflora and Crocosmiaeflora.

The summer hyacinth (Hyacinthus candicans) bears large white, bell-shaped flowers on stout stalks two or three feet high. For best effects this must be planted in clumps, and, like the Montbretia, proves hardy when given protection during the winter. Tuberose and caladiums are well known popular bulbs which are