

autumn is more enjoyable, and if American gardening is ever to have a distinctive feature of its own, it will be efforts specially directed to both of these. Our summers are usually hot and dry, and people are either "away," or very much indisposed for out-door enjoyment, except such as may be found in shady woods, or on some heights where the cool breezes blow. At any rate we shall not go wrong by doing our best for good effects with spring flowers, and it is time to think of these things now. There is scarcely anything more beautiful in spring than a bed of Hyacinths and Tulips well intermixed. The Hyacinths go out of flower just as the Tulips come in. In the spring, Gladiolus and Tuberoses can be placed between these; or if desirable, some flowering bedding plants, and in this way the gaiety and interest can be preserved from spring to fall. Crown Imperials are capital things for the centre of small beds, and the regular bedding plants can go round them. Narcissuses keep their foliage too long after flowering, as does the Snowdrop. These can hardly be made available where regular bedding is desirable for summer. They are best in odd patches by themselves. Crocus does well anywhere. It may even be set in the grass about the lawn, as it is generally over before the first mowing takes place. But it would not be admitted into our best kept lawns. The vast tribe of lilies come in rather late for spring gardening, but few will care to be without them. Besides these there are many little items which are noted in almost all bulb catalogues from which many interesting spring blooms can be had. No one will go amiss in looking well to this class of plants. The best time to plant is from now to frost. Mice and vermin are very liable to attack these roots. Poisoning is the best remedy.

In travelling through Canada or the United States, one cannot but be struck with the fact that there is a growing taste for gardening as a fine art; but that very little knowledge exists as to what should or can be done. It is, indeed surprising, with so much attempted gardening, there should be so little true taste; and yet not more so, perhaps that there should be so many buildings and so few specimens of fair architecture. Yet it is not that our people are slow to learn, but that they have nothing to learn from. The great want of the time is a better knowledge of landscape gardening, and true taste among our nurserymen and florists. In some places it is easy to see there is some one about. At Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland and St. Louis, it is easy to see, by the not uncommon specimens of good taste, that there is one somewhere near who has been sowing the

good seed, and in other places we see, once in a while, a specimen of what good gardening should be; but generally this is the result of missionary work from the places before mentioned, and not from regular residents on the spot. Good landscape gardeners are wanted all over the country; not men whose ideas run into the higher and more expensive channels of art, although these are by no means so numerous as they ought to be; but good men who have the capacity to regulate their recommendations to what those who employ them can understand and afford. As we have said, nurserymen and florists can do more by example. It is very rare that we see any place with any more taste than a common fruit garden or farm, where a single eye is kept to the immediate return of every dollar spent and nothing else. We know that nothing pays a florist better than to lead off in these matters of taste. He creates a custom which it is very profitable for him to supply. We know one who takes a pleasure in doing a little every year. He cannot do much, but every year he does something which every one admires. Last year he moved a few large arborvites of which he had an over stock, very carefully so as to make a background to a small curved border. Adopting our hint about the beauty of hollyhocks when seen against a background of evergreens, he has a row of most beautiful varieties forming a line in front of these. Then he has a row of Coleus in front of these, again, before these is a row of Chrysanthemums, and in front of them a row of bedding Geraniums of many shades of color. So pretty is the effect of even this simple arrangement, which may be so easily improved on, that it is admired by so many as to get him many orders for similar material next season.

Another matter we saw which pleased us. There were on the lawn belts and borders of shrubbery; but in front of these belts were Geraniums, Petunias and Verbenas, besides other gay colored bedding plants. Now beds of these plants are very common in flower gardens, but this combination of shrubbery and flowers is very unusual, and is capable of very varied application. It is just these little things which cost nothing much but a few minutes study, which every nurseryman and florist might have, and which would go a long way to develop the taste for beautiful grounds, which everywhere exists, but remains dormant for want of encouragement of the kind.

Shrubs for this kind of gardening we have alluded to, should of course be of a free flowering character. Of those which can be made very effective, the following may be used: *Pyrus japonica*, the red and the white; *Spiraea prunifolia*, *S. Reevesii*; *S. Billardii*; *Deutzia gracilis*, sea-

bra, and *crenata pleno*; *Weigelia rosea* and *W. amabilis*, *Philadelphus coronarius*, and *P. Gordonianus*; Persian and even the common Lilacs; Tartarian and Fly Honeysuckles; Hawthorns, Double Almonds and perhaps some others. But all these are common in most nurseries; are very easy to grow, and very pretty effects may be had at a small outlay.

Many people who have got but a few of these plants, will like to raise some more. This a good time to take off cuttings. Of those we have named all but the *Pyrus* will grow by cuttings; it grows by pieces of roots. Cuttings should be made about four or six inches long, and planted out in rows and set two or three inches below the surface of the ground. In spring planting we put them right level with the surface.

In many parts the leaves will have changed color previous to the incoming of winter, and the planting of trees and shrubs will commence as soon as the first fall showers shall have cooled the atmosphere and moistened the soil. What leaves remain should be stripped off, and the main shoots shortened. They will then do better than if planted very late. In fact, if planting cannot be finished by the beginning of November, in the Northern and Middle States, it is better as a rule, deferred till spring. In those States where little frost occurs, this rule will not apply. The roots of plants grow all winter, and a plant set out in the fall has the advantage over spring set trees, that its roots in spring are in a position to supply the tree at once with food. This is, indeed, the theory fall planters rely on; but in practice it is found that severe cold dries up the wood, and the frosts draw out the roots, and thus more than counterbalance any advantage from the pushing of new roots. Very small plants are, therefore, best left till spring for their final planting. It is, however, an excellent plan to get young things on hand in fall and bury them *entirely with earth*, until wanted in spring. Such things make a stronger growth the next season, than if just dug before transplanting.

At this season of the year, people think of making cuttings of bedding and other plants, in order for another year. The best way to propagate all the common kinds of bedding plants is to take a frame or hand-glass and set it on a bed of very sandy soil in the open air. The sand should be fine and sharp, and there is perhaps, nothing better than river sand for this purpose. The glass may be white-washed on the inside, so as to afford additional security against injury from the sun's rays. Into this bed of sand, cuttings of half ripened wood of the desirable plants may be set, and after putting in, slightly watered. Even very rare plants often do better this way than when under