

The shrubby Hibiscus or Altheas are, without doubt, the most valuable flowering shrubs for lawn decoration during August, as they retain the rich, glossy emerald green of their foliage, and produce in profusion their large showy flowers during the hottest weather in August. Nothing but a severe and long continued season of drought seems to have any ill effect on these sun-proof hybrids and descendants of the Syrian Hibis-

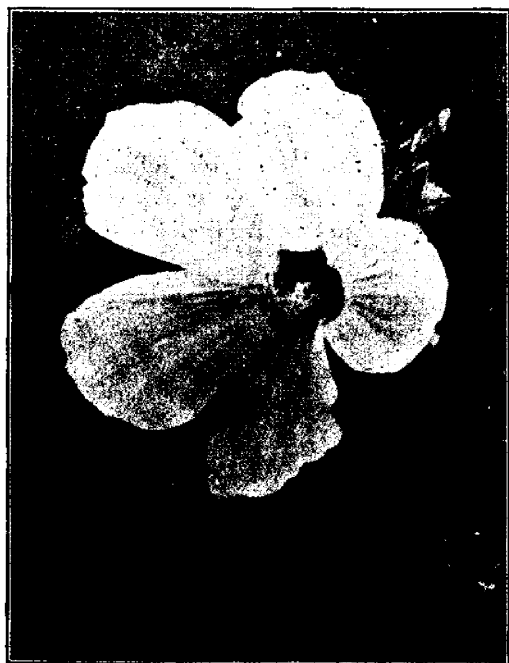


FIG. 1887. *HIBISCUS INCANUS*.

cus. These useful and beautiful shrubs will continue in flower well into September if given an occasional watering during very dry weather. Unfortunately, the different varieties of this Hibiscus, so far introduced, are not as proof against severe frosts, as they are sun-resisting in their character; as even in this locality they are sometimes partially killed back in winter, but soon recover, and make new growth very rapidly. As they flower almost entirely on the young growth made earlier in the season, this par-

tial frost killing does not materially injure them. Possibly, varieties may yet be introduced that will be sufficiently hardy to resist the severity of the weather in winter as successfully as the beautiful single and double flowering varieties we now have are in resisting the hot sun in summer.

The herbaceous species of the Hibiscus are of Californian origin, and are of special value, as they also produce their large funnel shaped flowers during the month of August. The variety *Hibiscus Californicus*, and *H. incanus*, the latter producing an almost pure white flower, are probably the best of the few varieties offered in catalogues at the present time.

Some of the dwarf growing Thuyas or Arbor Vitaes are suitable for planting on small lawns; I do not consider them sufficiently bright and attractive for summer decoration, but they have a much better effect in winter when the ground is covered with snow, and the deciduous trees and shrubs are devoid of foliage. The beautiful dwarf golden tipped *Cyperus* (*Retinospora's*) from Japan, that are seen in such perfection on lawns in the south of England, are, unfortunately, not hardy in this section. None of the *Abies* or *Pine* family are really suited for planting on small lawns, as the annual and disfiguring clipping process they have to undergo to keep them sufficiently under control, entirely spoils the beautiful symmetrical appearance that most of these trees present, when planted out singly, and left to grow unmolested.

The *Aristolochia siphon* or Dutchman's pipe plant is a hardy useful climber for covering arbors, fences, rustic arches, etc., in summer, as its large glossy green foliage retains its beauty all through the summer. A strong point also in its favor is, that no insect injures to any extent its dense, closely overlapping foliage. In localities farther north, where this climber is of questionable hardiness it could be trained on wires dur-