

(beds without corners are easiest.) Divide this into quarters by running a line both ways across the centre. Fill each quarter alternately with red and white phlox drummondi, that is two of white and two of red, this with a border of Tagetes (yellow) will make a handsome bed, and the plants are of the easiest raised. In planting out save a few plants of each color, and when the plants in the bed begin to flower, if any appear of a different color from what they are intended, remove them carefully and replace them with some of the reserve. The best way in which to do this is to take out the wrong plants in the bed, and dig a hole to receive the new ones, disturbing the roots as little as possible, and showing no trace of the exchange. If you plant close you may be able to remove a few plants and spread the others over the space.

Another plan for a bed is to plant in what may be termed ribbon fashion. Plant around the bed in bands of not less than eighteen inches, and in the space between you may fill up with any colors that will form a good contrast. You may use a white as often as you like, having a dark between, or a red, having a light between. Put a border around the outside of some stiff, erect growing plant, such as dwarf blue ageratum, which you can always trim a little on the outer edge to keep it from falling over the walk or grass. It is well to have the lines or masses as large as possible, as when they are small and narrow they run together and lose effect. When the plants grow, peg them down, covering all the naked portions of the bed, and draw them into the form you want. Pegging down has another advantage, as it causes the plants to throw out laterals, and gives you a more solid mass of flowers, and should not be neglected.

A border that is straight gives a fine chance to show a ribbon, and may be done by the same plants in the same manner as described for ribbon bed. This kind of work can be carried out with other plants, but the phlox drummondi is the best of all annuals for this purpose, is easy to grow, gives flowers for nearly three months, is almost a solid mass of color, and rarely disappoints the grower. If anyone wants a plan for a more intricate bed, I shall be most happy to give it through the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

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NOTE.—We hope that our readers will avail themselves of Mr. Robertson's knowledge and experience in flower culture, and learn intelligently to beautify their homes with these cheerful gems of nature.