

practical experience, the statements made are yearly proved; and for a beginner, or even for an old grower, can be relied on. To grow any bulb well, the surroundings should, as far as practicable, approach the state in which nature places it. Every year we pot dozens of hyacinths for winter and spring blooming, and we give the reader exactly the mode we use: In the first place we never use less than a six-inch pot, in which we plant one large bulb. We fill the pot three-quarters full of prepared earth, and plant the bulb about an inch and a half below the surface; then we fill the pot full, and press down so as to leave about half an inch on top, which prevents the waterings from overflowing. Of course put a bit of chip, a small flat stone, or fragment of a pot, over the hole in the bottom of your pot, to prevent the earth and roots from getting out, and after the bulb is thus planted, water it freely and set away in any convenient place out of the sun or stove heat. In six or eight weeks the crown of the bud begins to make its appearance, and can then be brought to any required spot to grow on till it has bloomed. In its native locality the hyacinth is found several inches below the surface of the earth, and we emphatically state that if grown as we have directed, the bells of the spike will be far superior to those grown in the usual mode. In almost all catalogues the reader or amateur is directed to plant so as to leave half the bulb above ground. Of course the plant will bloom and look very neat in the eyes of those who know no better; but you are told to hide your bulbs, so planted, in a dark place, and keep them from the sun or daylight. By exposing the top to light before the roots are properly grown, the crown is excited, the spike sends up perhaps a few odd flowers, which bloom without coming more than an inch or two from the bulb, and after the bells are nearly ruined the roots begin to grow vigorously and the stalk of the spike is sent rapidly up, with scarcely a bell, or, if any, they are nearly scentless and colorless. The object of the grower should be to imitate nature, not from a senseless design on his or her own account. If a hyacinth bulb is left over for the year in the ground, and taken up in the month of November, the roots will be found to be well developed, and yet scarcely the appearance or no appearance be seen as to the sprouting of the leaves and truss. It is not the object of nature to make it bloom in winter, and not till the warm days of spring come round does the shoot make its appearance on the surface. Those who have plenty of means can grow hyacinths as they choose, but it is generally an object for poor persons to have the same bulb for several years. If the hyacinth be left with half the bulb above ground, is it reasonable to expect that in this unnatural position the same strength can be obtained for next year? The matter is impossible. Those who raise these beautiful bulbs for sale have an object to serve in an extended consumption, and generally after blooming, especially in towns, they are thrown away as useless. If, however, the plan of burying the root as deep as reasonable, considering the size of the pot, and the following directions be followed, we can almost to a certainty guarantee a good healthy root for another year's bloom.

1. Select a good, round, smooth, hard bulb, with the root or base looking clean, and the little pimples that show where the roots are to spring from clear and distinct. It matters but little in comparison whether the crown is advancing or not, as that will come in proper time, and some varieties show it more than others.

2. Get some old cow dung, if possible, or any kind well rotted, and mix it with an equal quantity of black muck, easily obtained in the woods or edges of creeks, and add a handful of coarse sand of any sort, thoroughly mixing the mass.

3. A six-inch pot is big enough for the largest hyacinth, and yet not too large for an ordinary one. If a ten-inch pot be used, place a bulb in the centre and others round the circumference, say four or five, according to size; but recollect that the same variety must be always planted together in one pot, and, as we have said, bury them an inch or an inch and a half below the surface. Nature points to this plan as a preserving and restorative one, and Dutch florists and dealers, in this country as well as the old, direct them to be set with half the bulb exposed; so choose for yourself, good reader, whether nature or interested nurserymen give the best advice.

4. After planting, water freely and lay them aside out of the way of too much heat. In fact, we generally bury them in the garden and leave them for two months or more, till required to bloom. In towns any dark or cool, moist place is the best, and keep the earth always moistened, but not too much watered.

The reason for having moisture is that the roots must get it from the ground, or if the supply is taken from the bulb it is necessarily weakened and so much energy is lost that should go to the truss, which is to be avoided.

5. When the truss is coming into bloom the plant should have all the light possible, plenty of rain water and a temperature of about 60°. If, however, it gets a little frost at night it does no harm, as we have every year seen our own blooms uninjured by it, either in the house or the open border. The truss should have a neat stick as a support, because it sometimes is inclined to bend over or break.

6. When the truss ceases to bloom, and the bells wither, cut it away, and don't water the plant more than once in three days, and as soon as the leaves begin to get fairly yellow give no water at all. You had better then lay the pot away or turn it on its side for a fortnight or three weeks, after which the bulb may be taken up, cleaned of all roots and dead leaves and laid carefully away, to be planted again when required. If for blooming at Christmas, pots ought to be prepared at the beginning or middle of August. It may be taken, as a general rule, that from four and a half to five months after planting the truss is in perfection. Growing hyacinths in water is a neat plan, but the bulb is ruined for ever. If the bulb is only half covered (the usual method) it is useless to expect a truss of any account next season; but with the plan we have recommended the same bulb has been grown by us for year after year with, seemingly, as much success as ever. If grown in the border a bed should be carefully prepared, and the manner of so growing them will be described next month. It is a great improvement, we think, to add a few crocuses of any shade—yellow, blue or white—to the pot of hyacinthes, as the bloom of this elegant spring plant is over, and the grass-like foliage is in lovely contrast to the more queenly and lively hyacinth; and crocuses cost not more than one cent per bulb. We can recommend the following varieties of hyacinths for pots:—Red, Madam Maintenon, Fireball, Bouquet Royal, double; Robert Steiger, Bouquet Tender, Prince of Wales, Blue, Charles Dickens, Grand Lilac, Lord Wellington, double; Crown of Heaven, Robinson, Blue Amaranth, White, Norma, Voltaire, Queen Victoria, Virginity; and the best, Anna Marie, double, with rosy centre; Yellow, Fleur d'Or and Heroine, a citron color and very fragrant. We have grown these sorts, and can speak from experience, that they are worthy of any amount of reasonable trouble, and will repay us by the richness of their tints and exceeding fragrance. We have grown very many others, but, for the general public who wish cheap and fine blooms, these will be found

very choice. We have found by hard experience that many of the new varieties are much more costly and often inferior to older sorts that have been on the market for fifty years. There is as yet no true yellow, but no doubt a few years will make it an accomplished fact. On a cold winter's day in Canada what a contrast does it make, when the snow is around the house or on the street, to see a few pots of red and blue and white hyacinths in a window as you pass. It makes us think, as we pass along, that where those lovely flowers are must be a very happy home, and have a thrifty mother, an industrious father and rosy children.

Farm Gardens.

PAPER NO. 4, BY P. E. B., OTTAWA.

In the three previous papers on the above subject we have planted one strip of ground fifty feet wide by two hundred feet long, and laid out the house plot fifty feet by one hundred, so that to complete the parallelogram we have still left a piece the same size as that taken up for ornamental purposes, as described in Paper No. 3. We propose to fill this with grape vines of the most approved sorts, and in passing may mention that the best vines we have obtained are those received from the Vine Growers' Association of Navy Island, which is situated in the Niagara River, some little distance above the Falls. Mr. Haskins, City Engineer of Hamilton, is the President of this company, and I have no doubt will forward any communications respecting plants to the right quarter. This company keeps a very good assortment, though probably not all those recommended below. I believe the price is \$15 per 100; at least that was the rate for two-year old vines last year. This island is specially adapted for growing plants, as the season is both early and late, giving a good chance for a long summer's growth and consequently well-ripened wood.

The vines should be set eight feet apart in rows and ten feet between the rows; this will give sixty plants with a ten-foot strip left along the fence. Trellises for training the vines on should run north and south, so that the sun may rise on one side of them and set on the other. The trellis may be made by cutting fourteen feet long two-by-four scantling in halves, and setting them two feet in the ground, which will give posts five feet high. It greatly adds to their durability if these posts are dipped in or brushed with coal or gas tar obtained from gas works. A light rod should be nailed against the posts, one foot from the ground; strips of pine made by ripping a 1½-inch board two inches wide, will be found very suitable; a second bar, similarly made, should be nailed on the top; this will keep the posts from drawing together when the vines are put on. These slats will then be four feet apart; this space may be divided by three wires, one a foot above the first bar, the other two eighteen inches apart. This wire should be of galvanized iron, of any number from 18 to 13; the largest is perhaps the most serviceable; the latter is, however, a little the cheapest. The vines should be set midway between the posts; cedar or tamarac may in some situations be more easily and cheaply obtained than scantlings, and what is known to builders as "furring" may be obtained at reasonable rates, which would obviate the necessity of using the rip-saw.

To obtain the best success in grape culture the ground should be well drained and thoroughly worked before the vines are planted, drainage being one of the most necessary sources of success in this connection, as it lengthens the growing season by ridding the soil of surplus water and allowing the sun's rays to penetrate the ground. Many soils, however, are naturally drained, and require