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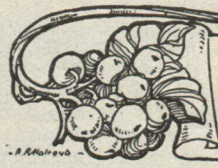
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My Lady's Garden

THINGS TO DO NOW.—If you want to have flowers in the early spring remember that the bulbous ones have to be planted in the autumn and some of them, to do their best, must go in at once.

Here are a few hints on the subject.

Plant bulbs only when the soil is in a nice friable (i.e. crumbles in your hand when you squeeze it) state, and never when the soil is wet and sticky.

DEPTH TO PLANT.—Novices often plant too deeply and many bulbs are spoilt in this way (crocuses especially).

A good general rule to follow is to cover the bulb with soil once and a half, to twice its own depth, measuring the bulb from base to shoulder—thus a daffodil bulb measuring two inches (from base to shoulder) should be covered with from three to four inches of soil.

MANURE FOR BULBS.—No stable manure should come in contact with the bulb or decay will be apt to be the result. Use thoroughly well decayed horse manure such as that from a spent hot bed, or cow manure, and dig it in 15 to 18 inches deep if the bulbs are large so as not to come in contact with the bulbs, if the bulbs are small have 2 or 3 inches of soil between the base of the bulb and the manure. For light soils this is a good plan as the manure holds the moisture—particularly if it is from a cow stable—the latter should not be used on heavy soils for that very reason.

Bone meal is a fairly good manure and may be mixed with the soil, at the time of planting, at the rate of 1½ ounces to the square yard, or Basic Slag may be used the same way, using 7½ ounces to the square yard. With either of these, Sulphate of Potash at the rate of ¾ of an ounce to the square yard should be sprinkled on the surface of the ground after planting.

A little sharp sand (such as you get at the lake shore) placed at the base of each bulb and sprinkled round and over it, as you cover it up, is almost an essential in heavy soils (as it helps water to get away) and is beneficial in all cases, and a fair amount as well should be worked into the soil throughout, if it is of a clayey nature.

BULB NOTES—LILIES.—Every one should have some of the lovely White Madonna Lily (*L. candidum*). See a good clump of them in bloom by moonlight on a warm June night, when the air is full of their fragrance, and you will feel like doing homage to their virginal purity and beauty. Unfortunately it is difficult nowadays to procure bulbs entirely free from the "Lily disease"; so be sure and dust flour of Sulphur thoroughly into the bulbs before planting. They like a rich well drained soil, (preferable of sand) in a sheltered spot, but not too shady. Do not delay in getting them in. August is really the best time for planting them as then they are quite dormant. A little later, they start growth again and the leaves that come then remain all winter and until the spring starts a more vigorous growth to take their places. Place pure sharp sand for the bulb to rest on and pour it round the bulb as you fill up the hole so that the sand protects the bulb from the soil to a great extent—this applies to all lilies.

The soil immediately surrounding the bulbs should not contain manure and do not put any very near unless thoroughly decomposed. Once you are the lucky possessor of a thriving colony of them do not disturb them on any account as they rebel against it. If your friends insist on having some from you, resign yourself to your fate but only to the extent of buying a supply for them, and leave your own in peace. There is no other lily that requires such early planting. In fact it is almost impossible to get the bulbs of other kinds early, as they are not dormant enough to lift until fairly cold weather comes.

Canadian gardeners confine themselves almost exclusively to the Japanese Lilies, such as the Auratum and Speciosum varieties. While these are undoubtedly the most beautiful type, they require a certain amount of care and coddling and for the herbaceous border do not seem so suitable as hardier

varieties like the old fashioned *Lilium crocum* (a good clump of which is by no means to be despised) and *L. tigrinum* (Tiger Lily). The *Umbellatum* (syn *davuricum*) group are also very hardy and showy. *L. umbellatum* incomparable is probably the best and is a good rich scarlet orange with large cup shaped (i.e. upright standing) flowers, about two feet high. *L. elegans* and its varieties are much the same; only, being smaller in every way, they are not as effective. Two of our own wild lilies are very fine border plants—*L. superbum* (the Turk's cap) and *L. canadense*, the former with petals that curve back strongly, the latter with graceful pendant flowers, both are scarlet orange in color—they can be bought at any seedsman's quite cheaply. The White Martagon Lily (*L. martagon album*) and the Scarlet Martagon (*L. chalcedonicum*) are two gems and quite hardy—the scarlet one being almost the color of sealing wax. Both carry large heads of small flowers with strong revolute petals like those of the Turk's cap. The common Martagon though not a bright color is still well worth having, those I have seen being a sort of art shade of soft dull Amethyst. *L. hansonii* called the "Yellow Martagon" is a magnificent lily, from three to four feet high, with large umbels of waxlike golden yellow flowers with crimson dots. Mr. Macoun reports that it is hardy at Ottawa. It likes a sandy loam and somewhat shady situation, and is a robust easily grown lily. I saw some very fine specimens of it at Kew last June and quite fell in love with it. Another beautiful scarlet lily of Turk's cap form is *L. pomponium*. Though perhaps not perfectly hardy, it will generally last two or three years and as it is not expensive it is well worth trying. There is very little if any difference between its flowers and those of *L. chalcedonicum*. Still another of the same shape and vivid coloring, only considerably smaller, is the graceful little *L. tenuifolium* from Siberia. So far, I have not succeeded in getting this lily thoroughly established. It seems to die out in a few years time although it is a native of Siberia and therefore should be reliably hardy with us—perhaps it is a lack of something in the soil which weakens it. If anyone has succeeded in naturalizing it thoroughly I wish they would give this column the benefit of their experience. Of quite a different type is *L. brownii*, which is also reported from Ottawa as being hardy. It is a handsome lily, has large trumpet like flowers, pure white inside, and reddish brown outside, it is a stem rooting lily and requires deep planting in a somewhat shady spot, and it likes a peat soil.

The crocus is a bulb (or properly speaking a corm) that should be planted early—September is the best time. Get only the mammoth or giant flowering varieties and do not plant them too deeply—one inch of soil over them is quite enough. Plant *Scilla Sibirica* (the *S. squill*) by the hundred, or the thousand if you can afford it, and you will not regret when spring arrives. The bulbs are very reasonable in price and the blue of the scilla is one of the purest in the whole realm of flowers. You can make a beautiful border by planting them thickly close to the edge of a bed. They are most accommodating as regards treatment. I cover mine about four inches deep or more, then annuals, such as Candytuft or Sweet Alyssum can be sown amongst them, to keep up a succession of bloom, without interfering with the bulbs.

There is a white form of *S. sibirica* which is a very pretty little thing, identical with the type in every other respect, but it is more expensive and not so effective as the blue.

Scilla Nutans is quite a different kind of flower and is the "Wild Hyacinth" or "Bluebell" of the English woods in spring. The growth is very similar, only much larger, to the Roman Hyacinth which the florists force in such large quantities in the winter for cut flowers and which is not hardy enough to be grown out of doors. But *Scilla Nutans* and its varieties have proved perfectly hardy for the last four winters in Toronto and so have the very similar type, *Scilla Campanulata* (syn *hispanica*) and its varieties, and they are all well worth growing, being much