

New Ideas in Outdoor Bulb Planting

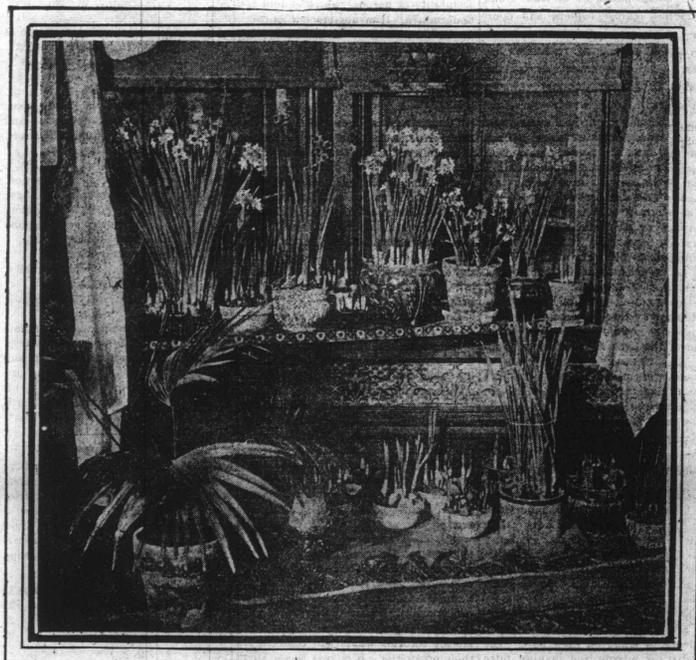


PHOTO BY SPENCER

A WINDOW GARDEN

THE most important fact about bulbs is that with their help you can have two crops of flowers every year on every square yard of your garden. For you can always put bulbs between the shrubs or petunials in your hardy border, and the bulbs will bloom in early spring before the trees leaf out, at the very time when flowers are most welcome.

And the best of it is that you can get permanent effects in this way, thus getting rid of the bother and expense of digging every year, sowing seeds and raising seedlings in the old back breaking way. For, if you select the permanent kinds of bulbs, about all you have to do is to plant them now and enjoy them next spring and many springs thereafter, until they multiply to such an extent that they crowd one another to the surface. Then you can dig up the clumps and divide them with friends. This may occur in three, five or ten years, depending upon the kind with which you select the place for planting them.

Here are three new places for planting crocuses, all of which should prove fairly permanent. I do not refer to the lawn, which is now the fashion to sprinkle with crocuses, for you cannot expect any bulbs to hold their own against closely cut grass. In a first class lawn crocuses will run out in two or three years, but many people like the effect so much that they are quite willing to plant a few hundred or a thousand every year. And no wonder, for crocuses are the cheapest of all bulbs, costing only

HEATING BY HOT AIR

THE least expensive heating system to install is hot air, says Suburban Life. A good furnace, with its installation, will cost at least \$200. With proper flue connections for ventilation it will cost another \$150, but one is then sure of perfect circulation of air. A furnace is frequently put in for less money, but generally at the risk of having a heater which will not properly warm a whole house in the coldest weather, a condition which no one can afford to court.

One hears many objections to the use of furnaces. The most common one is that rooms in the north side of the house are hard to heat. If the house is in an exposed situation and there is a heavy air pressure against one side of the house the heat is naturally driven to the other side, for not only is the cold air forced in on the one side, but it is drawn out on the other. It frequently happens that such a house should not have been heated by hot air, but by hot water or steam, a mistake which the heating engineer should have avoided.

A frequent cause of trouble comes from having the furnace set in the middle of the cellar, or perhaps on the opposite side from the cold rooms. This is a mistake; it should be on the cold side, so that the distance to the coldest room will be as short as possible.

Rooms on the ground floor on the cold side of the house which are hard to heat can often be properly heated by changing the register from the floor to a position in the wall, for the higher up the opening is the more readily the hot air will travel to it; as the furnace men say, "it pulls better."

The shape of the pipes carrying the hot air has much to do with success or failure in heating the house. In houses built today the hot air is frequently conducted through broad pipes which are set between the studding. Such pipes are usually about 4 by 15 or 18 inches. The heat will not travel through these pipes nearly so readily as in a round or square pipe of equal capacity. It is best to have round pipes put in, even if you mean a small offset in the wall.

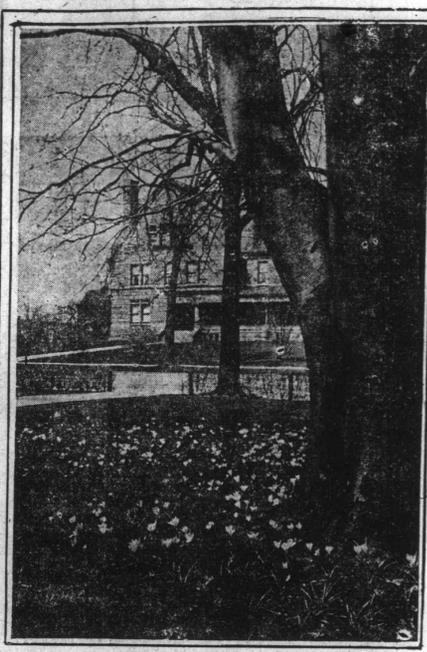


COMMON AND PATENT HYACINTH GLASSES PATENT GLASS ON RIGHT



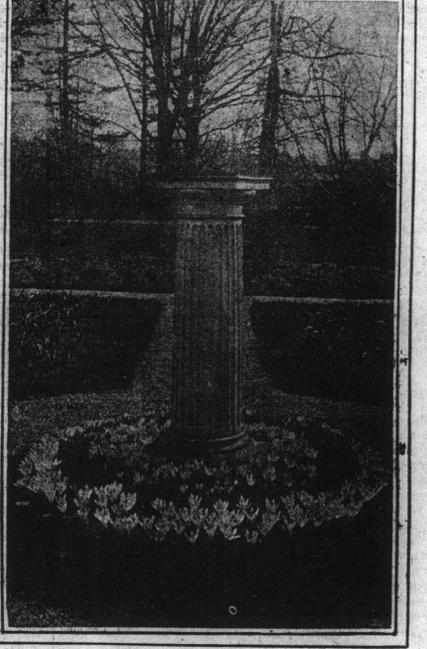
CROCUSES WILL PROBABLY PROVE PERMANENT IN THIS MEADOW AND LOOK LIKE WILD FLOWERS

PHOTO BY N.R. GRAVES



UNDER TREES ON YOUR LAWN WHERE NO GRASS WILL GROW TRY CROCUSES

PHOTO BY N.R. GRAVES



CROCUSES DECORATING A SUNDIAL IN MARCH. CLIMBING NASTURTIUMS CAN BE SOWN ABOVE THE BULBS

PHOTO BY N.R. GRAVES

Drummond's phlox will do, and verbenas; also petunias.

The second new idea about crocuses consists in using them under trees where grass will not grow. See how much they look like wild flowers at the foot of this grand old beech. And the beauty of it is that they will be as permanent as wild flowers in such a position, where they do not have to fight June grass—the most indomitable of all grasses and the basis of all good lawns in the temperate regions of the world. Crocuses in the woods are not as likely to be spoiled by spring frosts as they are in full sunshine.

Some day crocuses may be as common in our woods as hepaticas or trilliums, and future generations may have to consult a book to find out whether the crocus is really native to America or only run wild.

Everybody laughed at the lady in Rochester who planted hundreds of crocuses last fall in her lawn beneath this beech tree, but last spring she had the laugh on them, for after the crocuses bloomed they sent up their green leaves and made a good spot of green until the first of May, by which time the trees and shrubs were in full leaf. This fall her example has been followed up and down the street, all the bare spaces being filled with thousands of bulbs.

The third new idea about bulbs is to try them in a meadow or other sunny place where the grass is allowed to grow leaf on any tree. Even the dark ring in the picture will be a blaze of color in another day, for it is composed of yellow or purple crocuses, either of which show dark in the photograph.

After the crocuses are gone the owner of this garden may have another crop of flowers here without disturbing the bulbs. I can think of no prettier idea than sowing seeds of climbing nasturtiums here, for a delicate decorative vine is clearly needed about the sundial, not a rampant climber that would smother its beauty.

There is no use pleading that you live in a flat or that you never raised anything in your life or that dirty water will soil your curtains or carpets. Any one can cultivate bulbs in pure water or in bowls of sand and water.

Not all bulbs will do in this way. I defy any one to raise tulips nicely in water, and crocuses are rather hard unless you have a room where the temperature is about fifty degrees. Dutch hyacinths, Roman hyacinths, sacred lilies and paper white narcissus are the best.

The quickest and easiest to raise are Roman hyacinths, which have several practical sprays of small bells instead of one big, densely flowered truss like the Dutch hyacinths. Romans are also the cheapest bulbs for indoor bloom and require less time in the dark than others. However, it is best to get your bulbs as early as possible, pot them at once and keep them in a dark, cool, airy place as long as possible before bringing them into warmth and light. The whole art of bulb culture is to get a big growth of roots before the tops start.

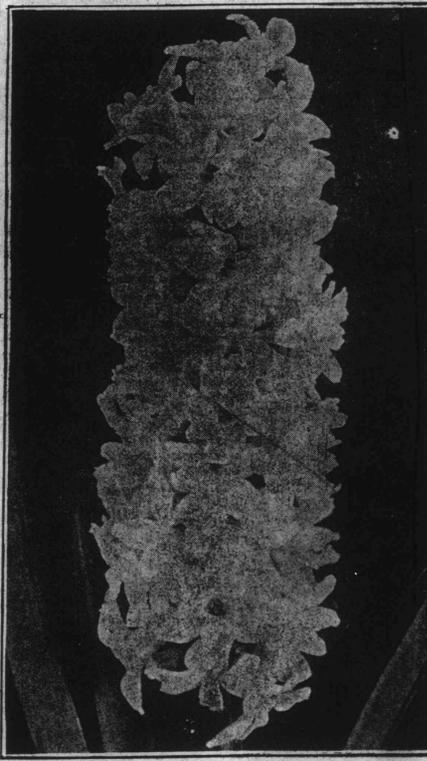
The most wonderful of these bulbs are the sacred lilies, for they make an astonishing growth in pure water. They look best in plain shallow bowls of glass, with a lot of fancy pebbles to hold the bulbs in place. They have large clusters of fragrant white flowers with yellow saucer shaped centres. You can have these by Christmas if you start now, and some persons succeed with them without putting the bulbs in the dark at all.

But let me warn you about one thing the catalogues may not tell you. It is easy enough to get a splendid growth of leaves,

easy to raise and many people like it better, because the flowers are pure white and not too fragrant.

The most gorgeous of these bulbs are the Dutch hyacinths. They have the greatest range of colors. It requires a good deal of care and skill to raise first class hyacinths in water, but they are lovely in those tall hyacinth glasses. The short, dumpy ones are less liable to topple over, but they are so ugly that I wouldn't take any of them as a gift.

Every good bulb catalogue tells how to raise hyacinths and other bulbs in sand



YOU CAN GROW DUTCH HYACINTHS LIKE THESE IN WATER

PHOTO BY W.H. WAITE

but the flower buds often blast, because beginners will forget about these tender plants and open a window right near them. On cold nights don't leave them on the window sill. Put them on a table in the centre of the room.

The paper white narcissus is just as

and water, so I won't give any more details lest I make an easy thing seem hard. But if you are in doubt about any point I will be glad to give any help I can, provided you will send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope in care of the Sunday Editor of the NEW YORK HERALD.

CULTIVATING SEEDLESS TOMATOES.

SINCE 1890 Professor Hallett, of New Jersey, has been giving some attention to seedless tomatoes. The first seedless plant occurred among the progeny of a cross between two standard varieties. It was called the Giant, and was large and was called the Giant. The stems of the plant were noted for their long joints and slow growth. The variety seems to be well fixed and the flavor is excellent.

Recently Professor Sandsten, of Wisconsin, has demonstrated that the use of excessive quantities of fertilizer exercises a truly remarkable effect upon tomato plants. It appears that the plants react differently to overfeeding. Some are dwarfed, some greatly elongated, some flat upon the ground, and in many the flowers and fruits are very abnormal. On two different types of plants thus produced seedless tomatoes grew. One type produced a large, solid tomato, while the other bore fruit not larger than a walnut. Both types come true when propagated from cuttings. Several other plants were obtained which produced fruits of an intermediate character, with fewer seeds than in normal tomatoes and irregularly distributed. Professor Sandsten does not consider either type of seedless tomato of any commercial value at present, but in time they may become so, and in any event it is important to know what such profound changes in the growth and habits of a plant may be produced in a single generation by changing the amount of the fertilizer.—Country Life in America.

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