

## Horticulture.

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### THE FLOWER GARDEN.

#### The Iris Iberica.

This variety of the Iris is so striking and curious, and withal so beautiful, that we have endeavored to give our readers some idea of its appearance by presenting them with the accompanying engraving.

The outer segments, it will be seen, are reflexed. The surface of these is a rich brown, beautifully netted and veined with darker markings, and a blue-black spot in the centre of each segment. The inner segments are erect, of a light color, in which blue and pink are most delicately blended and shaded, and handsomely pencilled with darker veins.

The flowers are large and showy, the leaves long and sword-shaped, and not so broad or flat as the common Iris of our gardens. The plant promises to be hardy, being found in the Caucasian mountains at an elevation of six to seven thousand feet, and has been successfully wintered in the open ground by Mr. T. S. Ware, Tottenham, England, during the past three winters without any protection whatever. It seems to prefer a light sandy soil.

There are several varieties of this Iris, differing somewhat in the coloring and marking of the flowers, but all beautifully striking and curious, and should they succeed as well in Ontario as in England, will prove most decided acquisition to our hardy herbaceous flowering plants.

#### Culture of the Verbena.

To grow Verbenas well it requires a good bed in the right place. But it should be where there is plenty of sunshine, as they will not succeed in the shade. Any good, sufficiently deep, rich and friable soil will grow them. A lawn too is a fine place for them. Cut out a round bed, or any other shape desirable, on a lawn or grass-plot; invert the sods and place them in the bottom of the bed; put six or eight inches of good soil on the surface; set a good plant of double zinnia, or a geranium in the centre. Buy or beg a dozen or more of good, strong growing plants, not high-sprindling affairs (particularly if you have to buy them; set them two feet apart in the bed. If they are pot plants, set them so that the bottom of the verberna will be six inches deep. If the plant is branching as it should be, bend off the branches in a slanting position, and fill in the centre with soil nearly to the surface, water freely to settle the soil around the roots; and then fill up the space with dry soil to prevent baking. Peg down the plants as they spread, and keep the soil well cultivated and of course free from weeds. You will then have a fine bed of verbenas. If you should want to grow good seedlings, get good plants to begin with. The best

verbenas produce the best seed, especially the scented and red colors, just as the best peaches do, but you cannot entirely rely on either. The probability is you will be satisfied with the finest that have been raised, without troubling yourself about your own seedlings. This is more the province of the professional florist. When you are tired of your verbenas or they should perish, or grow too rusty and black, you can spade them in, and this process will enrich the soil sufficiently, especially if done yearly. The plants that have blue, purple and white colors have the most seed, and the flowers of most of them are sweet scented. A few years past a fragrant verberna

vigorous shoot, yet is a little hardened at the base. It is also essential to have a bud or joint at or near the end of the cutting as roots strike from it, and the nearer it is to the base, the greater your chance of success.

Plant your cuttings in common red pots, filled half-full of rich loam, and two inches of sand on the top (scouring sand will do, but not sea sand), wet this thoroughly, and put the cuttings close around the edge of the pot, for if the bud-joint comes in contact with the surface of the pot, it seems to strike root more quickly. Pull off the lower leaves before you plant the cutting. Press the wet sand tightly

about the tiny stem, for a great deal of your success in raising the cuttings depends upon the close contact of the sand with the stem. When the cuttings are firmly planted, cover them with a glass shade if possible, for it will greatly promote the growth of the plants. Moisture, light and heat are the three essentials to plant life; without them no cutting will start. Shade for two or three days from sunlight, but don't let the sand become dry; then give all the sun you can obtain; keep up a good supply of moisture, and you can hardly fail to root most of your cuttings.

Cuttings of roses, verbenas, oleanders, heliotropes, etc., etc., can also be rooted in small vials filled with warmish water, and suspended from the window casement. Select the cuttings as above described; pull off the lower leaves, and insert the end for about an inch into the vial. Tie a string about its neck, and hang in the sun. If a bit of cotton wool is wrapped about the cutting where it goes into the neck of the vial, and it is kept wet, it prevents the rapid evaporation of the water. When the tiny roots show themselves, about an inch or more in length, fill up the vial with a rich composted soil; let it hang for two or three days longer, then break off the glass carefully, without disturbing the roots, and pot the plant. Managed in this way the roots receive no check, and the plant will grow very vigorously. The cutting can be taken from the water and the roots planted in pots, but they will cling closely together, and are not as naturally disposed as when the glass is broken off, after the roots are covered with soil. If the water evapo-

rates a third or more in the vial, it must be filled up with warmish water.—*Floral Cabinet.*

#### New White Hybrid Perpetual Rose.

Mr. Bennett, of Stapleford, writing to the *Floral World* says, "I wish to draw particular attention to Mons. Lacharme's white rose, *Madame Lacharme*, which I saw at the Universal Exhibition, in Lyons, July 6th, 1872, when it was deservedly awarded a first prize. I also saw a large number of plants in full bloom in equally good form at Mons. Lacharme's; it appears to be even a stronger grower than its parent, has very large, handsome Jules Margottin foliage and wood; the blooms when fully expanded are about four inches and a half in diameter. It is certain to be of good constitution, as it withstood the severe frost of last winter triumphantly."



was a novelty. We have now quite a variety of them. Gather your seeds early in the morning when the dew is on, or after a shower. Do not use heating manure, as it will make the plants rusty-black. The bright and showy flowers of the verberna, make it the most popular bedding plant in cultivation.—*Rural Express.*

### THE WINDOW GARDEN.

#### To Manage Cuttings.

In selecting a cutting a great deal depends upon a judicious choice, if the slip is too young and full of fresh sap, it will fade away from too much evaporation, and if it is too old—i. e., hard and woody, it will take a great while to strike root. You must take a cutting that is partly ripened, and is from a