



Peonies and Trio Germanica in Garden of J. R. Thompson, Hamilton, Ont.

Transplanting Garden Annuals

P. D. Powe, Cainsville, Ont.

June is by far the most important month in the year in the flower garden, for if we are to have success we must give the plants the best of attention. This is the month the plants make their growth and much of the transplanting, thinning and cultivation is done now.

Transplanting and thinning are very important matters that must not be neglected. The boxes which we have started will need our first attention. When the seeds are well up, having made their first or second pair of leaves, they are best transplanted either into their blooming quarters or into another box. Set them in the garden from six inches to two feet apart. A good plan to go by is the height plants will attain when full grown. Divide this by half, and you have the distance apart to place the plants. If it is too early to plant out take another box, fill it with good soil, and place the plants three inches apart each way in it. This gives sufficient space and you get strong plants. Plants that will not succeed when transplanted must be sown thinly out of doors. When they are well up thin them out to the right distance apart. It is cheapest for the city grower to buy plants that he cannot grow in the garden, from some florist. By so doing you get the benefit of the florist's years of training, and up-to-date facilities.

The best time to thin or set out plants is before seven in the morning and after five in the afternoon. If the work is done in the morning cover the plants

with papers so as to protect them from the sun's rays. By neglecting to do this you may lose your whole stock. Water should be given in the evening only, except in the spring when the morning is the best, as the plants will not then receive a chill, which might retard them.

THE CARE OF THE PLANTS

When the plants are well started, the surface of the bed should be frequently worked with a small hoe, cultivator or weeder, not only to keep the beds free from weeds, but also to encourage the plants to grow by keeping the soil loose and friable around them. This cannot be done too often. If done twice a week you will obtain fifty per cent. better plants and bloom.

During dry periods the plants should be given water when the sun is down. This watering should be done well. Let the water soak right into the roots. Surface water does plants more injury than good. After watering stir the soil well to prevent caking or crusting of the soil. In dry weather, when water is scarce, lawn clippings are excellent to cover the surface of the bed with. They preserve the moisture and keep down the weeds, and also enhance the beauty of the bed.

Washing day is a great day with the housewife, and also with the garden if the wash water is only used right. Nothing helps flowers as much as soapy water so long as it does not contain lye or other strong acid to eat them. The soapy water contains a large amount of ammonia, animal fat, and other fertiliz-

ers and also has power to destroy all or most of the insect pests found on the plants and in the soil. Always keep dead leaves and flowers picked off as this not only makes the plants look better but prolongs the season of bloom.

Spraying to Destroy Dandelions

Prof. J. E. Howitt

Probably no weed attracts more attention at this time of the year than the homely dandelion. Everywhere lawns are to be seen yellow with this pest. Later, when the seeds are ripe, they are still more unsightly. Spudding dandelions from the lawn is a laborious and unprofitable task. Some easier and more effective method has long been looked for. During the past three years the Department of Botany has been trying experiments in spraying with a solution of iron sulphate to kill dandelions in the lawn. The results obtained are much more promising than those secured by some experimenters in the United States, and should be of interest to the readers of *The Canadian Horticulturist*.

Only last year's results are cited, but those of the two previous years are very similar, though the data are not so exact. In last year's trials a twenty per cent. solution of iron sulphate was used. This was prepared by dissolving two pounds of iron sulphate in each gallon of water. This solution was applied with a knapsack sprayer in the form of a fine spray just after the first few dandelions in the plots came into flower. Forty-eight hours after the application of the solution, the leaves of the dandelions were found to be blackened and burned. The burned and withered leaves were raked off and the plots left for about two weeks, when the dandelions were seen to be sending up new leaves. Another spraying was then given with the same results. A careful watch was kept on the plots, and it was found necessary to spray them six times during the season in order to prevent the leaves getting a start.

This spring the plots were closely observed and the results of last year's sprayings noted. Each plot contained one hundred and sixty-eight square feet. The dandelions in these sprayed plots and in the unsprayed check plot were counted. In plot number one there were one hundred and thirty dandelions; in plot number two, one hundred and forty-one dandelions; and in plot number three, ninety-one. In the check plot (unsprayed) there were approximately eight thousand four hundred dandelions. These figures show that over ninety-eight per cent. of the dandelions in the plots were destroyed by spraying six times with a twenty per cent. solution of iron sulphate. Some of our correspondents who sprayed their lawns last year with iron