



paenies, ten phloxes, ten lilies, twenty dahlias, and twenty gladiolus bulbs.

The gladioli and dahlias were saved for spring planting; the rest were planted immediately and, the fall work being now completed, I staked, labelled, and mulched the various plants in preparation for their winter rest.

Early in April the mulching was removed; every one of my plants had survived the winter and sent up fine strong shoots. I had the bed covered once more with a layer of good manure and dug it in thoroughly, being careful not to disturb the plants, after which I worked and pulverized the top soil and smoothed the surface ready for planting. The last week in April I put the gladioli bulbs and dahlia tubers into the ground and on the first of May I planted quantities of poppy seed, the pompon variety, just scattering it and raking it lightly into the ground, between and around the perennials and in a solid strip two feet wide in front of them. It was a risk planting poppies so early in this climate, but I had plenty of seed saved from my own garden the previous year and could replant if the frost cut down the first seedlings. Fortunately they were spared, and I consequently had poppies in bloom nearly a fortnight earlier than usual.

In front of the poppies I planted a single, perfectly straight row of dwarf nasturtiums, and at the edge of the bed as a border I set out plants of dwarf sweet alyssum. These latter I had planted early in March in the house and later transferred to the hotbed so that at the time of setting out they were already starting to bloom and kept right on without setback, making a solid white border from the middle of May until after the heavy fall frosts had killed every other flower in the garden.

By the middle of May, when the poppies were up, the bed was well covered with green, besides the alyssum, a few paeonies were in blossom, the delphin-

iums were sending up promising flower spikes and the border began to be attractive to the eye. It was quite contrary to all rules and to my better judgment to allow the paeonies and delphiniums to bloom the first year after setting out, but it was very gratifying to see something of what was coming, and served to encourage my efforts.

The real show began about the middle of June when the pompon poppies came into bloom, and for nearly three weeks they were one glorious profusion of beautiful paeony-like flowers forming one of the most magnificent masses of color that I have ever seen, and that, too, at a time of the year which, in this part of the country, is an "off season" in the flower garden. Earlier we depend upon the paeonies, delphiniums, and spring-flowering bulbs for massed color effects; later we have phlox, asters, nasturtiums, dahlias and a wealth of other heavy bloomers, but in between are a couple of weeks when the poppies fill a felt want and are almost alone.

As soon as the glory of the poppy-bed began to show signs of departing, and the plants began to yellow at the base, although many were still in blossom, I ruthlessly rooted up every poppy plant, worked a little more fertilizer into the soil and set out in their place the asters which I had planted in the house early in March, cherished in the hotbed, and finally potted off and plunged into a cold frame to await their turn in the border. By this time, the first of July, the plants were already branching freely in preparation for the flowering season, and, receiving no setback from careful transplanting, they were soon in bloom, and gave abundance of beautiful flowers from mid-July till killed by severe frosts in the late fall. They were of the *Ostrich Plume* variety which, to my mind, are the most satisfactory where a long-continued, showy mass of bloom is desired—I have counted forty to sixty good flowers on a single plant.

In the meantime the dahlias, phlox, gladioli, and lilies grew and blossomed, making a very fair show indeed for the first year's planting, while the dwarf nasturtiums, according to their wont, almost obscured their own foliage completely with their wealth of blossom, throughout the entire season.

At no time from May to late October did my border fail to show abundant color. A study of the accompanying diagram will show how, by careful planning and taking into account the habit of growth of each variety the plants were placed quite close to one another without, in the least, interfering with one another above ground or crowding each other for root room. Of course, care should always be taken to see that taller-growing sorts be placed behind those of smaller growth so as not to obscure them, also that deep-rooted plants be alternated with those requiring little or shallow root room; finally one should plan to have plants flowering at the same season to harmonize in color so as not to "kill" one another. For that reason I have not yet ventured to introduce into my border the gorgeous oriental poppy which I have known to ruin many otherwise charming borders of more delicately tinted flowers.

SUCCESION OF BLOOM

The following table will show the succession of bloom: Late May and June, delphiniums, paeonies, alyssum, poppies; July, nasturtiums, dahlias, alyssum, gladioli, asters; August, asters, alyssum, elder hedge, lilies, dahlias, nasturtiums; September and October, asters, alyssum, nasturtiums, dahlias, phlox.

Now to consider the cost of that eighty-foot bed: Two loads manure, five dollars; digging of ground in fall, two dollars fifty cents; hired help on elder hedge, two dollars; ten delphinium plants, one dollar twenty-five cents; ten phlox plants, one dollar fifty cents; ten paeony plants, two dollars fifty cents; ten lilies, one dollar; twenty gladiolus bulbs, one dollar fifty cents; twenty dahlia tubers, three dollars fifty cents; seeds, one dollar; total, twenty-one dollars seventy-five cents.

Thus at the small initial cost of twenty-one dollars seventy-five cents (which could have been even more reduced had I been willing to wait a year or two and raised some of the plants from seed) I established an entirely satisfactory perennial bed eighty feet by eight feet which made a splendid showing from the very first year of planting, and which has greatly increased in beauty and value during the two years that have passed since it was planted.

In the meantime, in a sheltered, sunny corner of the kitchen garden, I established