

The paeonia is widely distributed by nature, being found in Europe, temperate Asia, China and North America. There are two principal genuses, the shrubby or tree paeonia, and the herbaceous paeonia; of these there are some seventy-five named varieties, two-thirds of which belong to the latter class. They are called after an ancient Greek physician, Paeon, who used the plant in his medical practice.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS.



I HAVE written this paper on the tuberous begonia because I believe there is the greatest future before it of any plant of recent introduction, whether for the conservatory, the window garden or the open garden. I think one reason why it is not better known is that we have been too apt to think it would not flourish except under glass, and therefore it has not been given a fair trial as a bedder. We have grown it moderately at Forest Hills until last year; then quite extensively, having planed out some thousands of them in different parts of the grounds, in large and small beds and on graves. In all cases they were the best beds of flowering plants in the cemetery, affording a remarkable variety of color, white, yellow, orange, rose, scarlet and crimson, in numerous shades. Then their comparison with other flowers show greatly in their favor. The geraniums thus far have taken the lead as the best bedders; but how a rainstorm destroys geranium flowers, especially of the single varieties! But with the begonias it is not so; they are bright again in twenty-four hours, flowers and foliage standing up in bright array. At Forest Hills we must have large quantities of bedding plants and of the best. The introduction of the Crozy cannas and the tuberous begonia forms a great advance. It is to be hoped they will soon take the place of the faded coleus, and perhaps others may as well be spared, as they reflect no credit on a well-managed place. I think there is very little character to the so-called "foliage bed." One can get material at a dry good store, with which to produce as good an effect. I do not include in this remark the sub-tropical beds, but those filled with so-called foliage plants. Flowering plants are decidedly better. What "foliage" bed can compare with a solid mass of tuberous begonias, or a large bed with Crozy cannas in the center, surrounded by a broad belt of heliotrope and tuberous begonias as a border? Such a bed is not only an object of beauty, and a delight to all observers, but, if some cut flowers are desired, here they can be had. If one wishes a good bed of flowers, a bright vase, a cheerful window, or some choice cut flowers for decoration, the tuberous begonias will not disappoint either desire.—Ex.

The same treatment is recommended for the pear as for the apple, before blooming, but the copper-arsenic solution is advised after blooming.