

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

finest orchids in delicacy of colouring and grace of form. The Oris root (*Iris florentina*), which blooms about the same time, is a very handsome species. The flowers are large, pale blue or lavender, and sometimes white, and have a delicate perfume. This is one of the most desirable species. Following these and beginning to bloom when they are almost gone, is the Golden Iris (*Iris aurea*). This is undoubtedly one of the most handsome species grown. The flowers are large and of a deep rich yellow color. These with a height of from 3 to 4 feet, give it a stateliness and beauty unsurpassed by any other yet tested at Ottawa.

The Japanese Irises, which are giving good satisfaction in a diversity of soils at the Experimental Farm, have an entirely different form from any of those previously mentioned. They have not the grace of many of the other species and varieties, but their colouring is exquisite, and they bloom during the month of July, when other Irises have disappeared.

The Globe flowers, or Trollius, which remind one of a buttercup, but which are larger and richer in colouring, begin to bloom during the third week of May and are among the best of spring flowers. *Trollius Europæus*, *T. giganteus*, and *T. Ledebourii* are three of the best.

Time will not permit me to speak of other spring flowers, such as the Evergreen Candytuft, *Iberis sempervirens*, the Prophet Flower (*Arnebia echioides*), the Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), and others.

During the first week of June the Spiræas begin to bloom and keep up a succession of white, cream and pink flowers until well on in the summer. The best of these bloom in the following order: *Spiræa Filipendula* fl. pl., *S. astilboides*, *S. palmata elegans*, *S. Ulmaris*, and *S. Venusta*. Of these, *S. Filipendula* flore pleno and *S. Venusta* are deserving of special mention. The former has pure white double flowers and is about 2 feet tall; the latter, has deep pink flowers and is 4 feet or more in height.

During the first week of June the bright scarlet flowers of *Heuchera sanguinea* begin to appear, and this charming and graceful plant continues to bloom until late in the autumn.

Most of the hardy perennial pinks have comparatively small flowers, but in some of the named varieties of *Dianthus Plumarius* flore pleno there are flowers which are almost equal to the best carnations. Mrs. Sinkins is one of these. The flowers of this variety are large, double white and highly perfumed. It is quite hardy and should be in every collection.

The Hemerocallis, or Day Lillies, contribute largely to the appearance of the perennial border during the summer months; the best of these are: *Hemerocallis Dumortierii*, *H. minor* and *H. flava*, which bloom in the order given. A new variety from Japan, *H. aurantiaca major*, promises to be a good introduction.

It is in June and July that most of the lilies are at their best, and there are so many varieties of these beautiful flowers that it is necessary to limit oneself to the very best. *Lilium canadense*, *L. tenuifolium*, *L. elegans*, *L. tigrinum*, *L. superbum*, *L. auratum* and *L. speciosum* make a succession of bloom from June until September.

There are several species of Coreopsis which enliven the flower border from the latter part of June until autumn. Of these the most satisfactory tested at the Experimental farm is *C. lanceolata*, the flowers of which are large and deep yellow. *C. grandiflora* is very fine, but has not proved perfectly hardy at the Experimental Farm. There is a variety of this Golden Glory which has been lately introduced, which we have not yet tested. *C. delphinifolia* is quite different from the two preceding species, the flowers having dark centres.

The Gaillardias are among the most satisfactory flowers as they continue to bloom for such a long time. Beginning about the third week of June, there is a continuity of bloom until late autumn. The flowers of *G. aristata grandiflora* are very large and of fine colouring, the petals being of a deep yellow more or less tinged with orange, and orange at the base. Some of the named varieties of this are still better, such as *Superba* and *Perfection*.