

be lifted. The balls of earth are now bound together with roots, and may be handled much more quickly than if the plants were grown in pots from the

beginning. There is no wilting, and the plants do better. They make more fibrous roots, giving them a better hold of the soil. This method will save

growers of such plants many disappointments, not only in the growing of annual seedlings, but all other seedlings as well.

## Formal Gardening

A. K. Goodman, Cayuga, Ont.

EVERY home in the smaller towns should have a garden, for the beneficent influence on the taste and character, as well as for the pleasure which it confers. The pursuit of gardening in connection with the ordinary business of life is to be highly commended. The amateur must of necessity avoid the many exotics requiring a degree of care and protection from adverse influences which only those who have conservatories can bestow; but there are in Ontario a very large number of hardy varieties, both beautiful and fragrant,

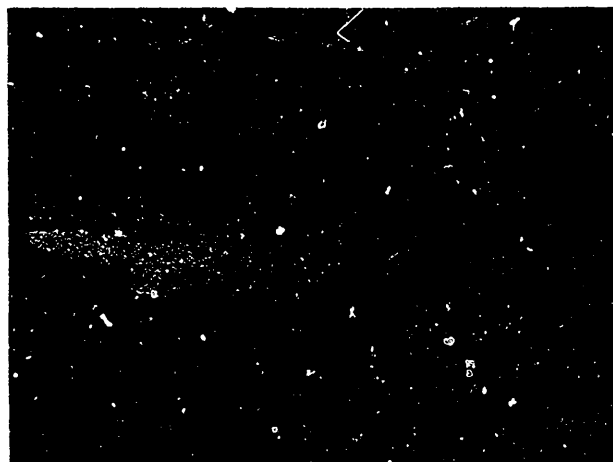
for the development of individual tastes, and wonderful scope for the artistic colorist in formal gardening; yet the steps of progress are circumscribed by certain primary rules rigidly laid down by nature. These rules must be obeyed. They are drainage, good soil suitable to the plant, sunlight, freedom to develop unchoked by plant life or roots of trees, and water. If these are ever borne in mind the grower may revel in a pleasure numbered among the greatest given to man.

In the shapes, sizes and proportions,

ing grounds must all be taken into consideration. Use the three colors or shades of the three colors in each bed. Cut 1 shows a charming result obtained from a centre of castor oil bean, surrounded by dark red geraniums and climbing blue ageratum, with a border of alyssum. The ageratum climbs over the other plants to the castor oil plant, making the general effect superb. A large oval bed raised in the centre may contain castor oil beans, two circles of cannas, one of helianthus, one of elephants' ears, one of climbing ageratum, one



A Charming Flower Bed with Castor Oil Bean in the Centre



A Circular Bed of Cannas and Coleus

which the owners of the smallest gardens can cultivate easily and successfully. Formal gardening is a wide subject, but, as commonly practised in Ontario, usually means, from a floral standpoint, those beds that are planted by the flower-lover to ensure a continuity of bloom or color from spring until frost. It does not always comprise set pieces, but is apart and distinct from those specimens grown in the garden for cut flowers.

Now is the time to plan the summer gardens of 1906. There is ample room

and in the blending of color, there is no limitation. The amateur's beginning should be simple, but he should be in earnest and thorough. From the public gardens of the city he can personally obtain ideas for reproduction. One thing more he must learn, that is, after the garden is made and planted it must be cared for, weeded, edged, etc. Once safely started, he will, in a few years, be coaxing others along the path he so feebly walked in the beginning.

Circular, oval, ribbon, star or oblong are all effective, though the surround-

of red achyrantes, one of bronze bedding geraniums, and a border of silver-leaf geraniums, Madam Saleroi.

A good ribbon bed may be made with a centre of four rows of scarlet geraniums; on both sides have three rows of dark red coleus; on both sides again plant two rows of silver-leaf geraniums; extend as far as required and border with red alternantheras. A circular garden of cannas with different colored coleus gives a handsome general effect along with the foliage of the shrubbery and trees as shown in the second cut.

## The Freesia

W. T. Macoun, Ottawa, Ont.

THE freesia is one of the most charming and most graceful of the winter flowering bulbs. It has a delightful and penetrating odor, and one flower will scent a whole room. Unlike most other bulbs which bloom in the winter the freesia does not require to be

well rooted before forcing. The most satisfactory results are obtained by leaving the bulbs in the cellar for a few days, only until roots begin to push out, and then bring the pots up and force them. They may even be forced with satisfaction by bringing the pots or

boxes into a warm room as soon as the bulbs are planted.

The soil should not be kept very wet until they are growing thriftily, as the bulbs might rot. Many a beginner has thrown out a pot of freesias in disappointment at no flower-buds showing,