

GARDEN WORK FOR EARLY SPRING.

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Many teachers already have the School Garden Book, by Weed and Emmerson. All should have it as a book of reference. It is published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, and costs \$1.10.

The Introductory chapter deals with Window Boxes. In a later chapter suitable plants for window boxes are listed. The inexperienced teacher, however, has difficulty in selecting from a large list the most suitable for her conditions. A few plants successfully grown are better than a number of experimental failures.

Make your boxes as large as the size of the window will permit. In general they will be about three feet long, eight inches wide, and eight inches deep. Use good soil, and keep it well watered, but not continuously soaked.

About the last of March, plant in boxes the size of chalk boxes or cigar boxes (using rich fine soil) the following seeds—using one box for each kind: Snapdragon, Petunia, Dwarf Nasturtium, Climbing Nasturtium, Verbena and French Marigolds. About the last of April these should be ready to transplant to the regular window boxes. In your east windows set Snapdragons six inches apart along the side next the window. In the same box set Petunias along the other side. These two will give a good combination for one box. The Snapdragons are erect. The Petunias will hang over and hide the box. In another box plant Verbenas. They may go in any window except north. In another box plant tall Nasturtiums in the centre with a border of dwarf Nasturtiums. Later, strings may be fastened from the edge of the box to the top of the window as supports for the climbing Nasturtiums.

A box of Marigolds with a border of Sweet Alyssum (from seed planted directly in the window box) will be effective in a south window.

Besides the seed boxes, have a few boxes of sand in which to start cuttings of Fuchsias, Geraniums and Coleus. These cuttings may be taken from house plants in the children's homes. After they are rooted plant them in boxes for whatever windows need them. Though they like sun they will grow in north windows. After all, ferns are very satisfactory for north windows. So are Lilies-of-the-Valley.

During March the children should study seed catalogues. Besides selecting flowers for their window boxes, they should now plan their outdoor gardens.

To get the greatest pleasure and profit from a garden one needs a hot-bed or a cold frame. An out door seed-bed is also advisable. Farm reports and bulletins will give all necessary instruction in the operation of these. No teacher should be without the free literature available from the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and from her own Provincial Department of Agriculture.

But window boxes and out door gardens have not fulfilled their whole mission if they merely have taught the children how to grow plants. That knowledge, in itself, is valuable indeed. But equally valuable are *some* of the other school subjects. Part II of the School Garden Book gives very suggestive "children's exercises." The whole school term may be enlivened by a judicious use of these exercises.

In addition to the observations, the English, the drawing and the habit of making systematic records, the garden affords an excellent field for geography. Where was the original home of this plant? What changes has it undergone in order to live in this strange land? Is there any relation between the hardiness of a plant and the climate of its native country? Some of our house plants never produce seeds. In their wild state they did. Why the change? What per cent of our potatoes will produce seeds this year? Watch. Ask older people if that is different from a generation ago.

A single garden will raise questions enough to keep one busy for a life-time.

The chapter on Bulbs is good. Some bulbs are planted in the fall; others, in the spring. Now is the time to get interested in the latter. Every child should try at least a half-dozen Gladiolus bulbs. Some of the newer Dahlias are also well worth growing.

A better assortment of foliage plants is desirable for indoor growing. The choice of suitable jardiniere in which to grow them, as well as vases for cut flowers, gives a chance to develop an artistic taste now too much neglected. The "cuts" in this book are very helpful in this way.

Another strong feature is the Calendar, month by month. "What to do in September,"