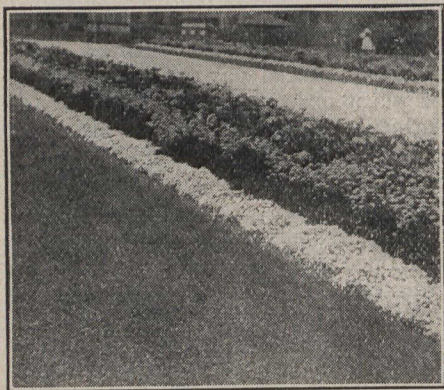


of the bed, with one row of blue ageratum on either side, and outside rows of Madame Saleroi geranium or sweet alyssum makes an elegant display. The whole object of the planter should be to present a pleasing effect from a distance, and not to have it merely satisfactory to those who are alongside the flowers. A most repulsive effect is produced by some gardeners planting bright red or scarlet geraniums against a red brick wall. If it is necessary to



Ribbon Border in Allan Gardens

have plants near the wall, caladiums or some such foliage plants should be planted, and then the scarlet geraniums will look well in front of the green.

"The plants used and the number of rows of each kind will depend largely on the size of the bed. Small beds with geraniums in the centre and one row of smaller plants around the edge is satisfactory. Beds larger than 12 feet in diameter should have two rows of edging plants. Cannas, caladiums and such plants should never be used in small beds. If there are no large

beds in which to put them they will show up to better advantage if set next the house or some wall or fence.

PREPARING THE SOIL

"A bed that has stood all winter, and was left in good shape in the fall, requires no special fertilizer in the spring. If, however, tulips or hyacinths were planted, the bed will require a heavy coat of well-rotted manure before the bedding plants are put in. Cannas, Caladium asculeum, dahlias and such plants are heavy feeders, and need an extra supply of manure. The best results from dahlias are obtained by digging a hole about a foot deep, placing in three inches of well-rotted manure, and filling up with rich soil. The bulbs when planted in this soil develop rapidly, and the roots do not come in contact with the manure until they require it. Hydrangeas do well with this treatment.

"For most bedding plants a medium heavy loam is best. Light, sandy soils require too much watering. The heavier soil retains the moisture for a longer time. Nothing is better than an application of coal ashes. The soil is kept cool and moist in hot weather, and although they do not supply a great deal of plant food, there are very few plants that do not thrive well in soil with a coat of ashes added. Before planting the soil should be forked over deeply. If given a rest during the winter and spring it has regained much of the desirable qualities. Green manure should never be used, as the ground is hot enough during the summer, and the action of the green manure during fermentation develops more heat and cause it to dry out.

"Plants requiring support should be

staked when they are set out. If the stakes are not put in when the plants are set there is danger of injuring the roots or bulblets later on. The plants should be tied to these supports frequently as growth develops.

INSECT ENEMIES

"There are numerous troublesome insects," continued Mr. Collins, "that have to be combatted by every gardener. The rusty leaves commonly seen on geraniums are generally due to attacks by the red spider. It is common on dry, sandy soil. This pest can be kept in check by thorough applications of cold water with the hose in the evening. On the ageratum, thrip is frequently found. Syringing with cold water or tobacco water destroys it. Perennials are often attacked by the black fly. A thorough treatment with tobacco water for two or three mornings in succession immediately after they are seen will keep them down.

"The nicotianas and mignonette have the common potato bug as an enemy. If this insect is not watched it will completely strip the foliage off the plant. Dry Paris green or syringing with Paris green and water is effective. The Paris green and water is more satisfactory because it leaves less stain on the foliage. If they are treated as soon as they make an appearance they can easily be kept in check.

"On roses green fly is the most serious pest. Tobacco water is the most effective remedy, but if it is not used, constant syringing every day with cold water will destroy the flies and prevent others from coming. The cold water bath is specially efficient during hot sunny weather."

Flower Boxes for the Windows

DURING the hot sultry days of summer nothing in the form of plant life is more desirable for brightening the home than well-prepared and well-cared-for window boxes. If rich soil is used and the boxes are not made too narrow and too shallow, a brilliant display can be had during the greater part of the summer. The chief essential is that plants that retain their green and do not shed their leaves are used. Liberal watering is demanded every day.

The enthusiastic amateur can do all the work successfully, but for the average citizen it is advisable to secure the services of a local florist. Competition is keen, and there is little danger of exorbitant charges. Proper soil and suitable plants are sure to be supplied, because this department of the florist's trade is becoming extensive, and he is anxious to hold what he has and get his share of those who make a

start each season. Those who do not care to leave the selection of specimens to the florist can secure whatever they require. There are scores of plants that give good effect, but coleuses, geraniums and nasturtiums are perhaps as commonly used as any.

The effect of nicely decorated windows on one residence on a street is to cause others to copy the idea. The result is the whole street is given a more pleasing and a more attractive appearance.

An example of what can be done by means of such decorations is to be found at the beautiful home of Dr. Dryden, of Guelph. In a letter to THE HORTICULTURIST the doctor wrote:

"Window boxes are easily grown and require so little care that the results in the improvement of many homes are greater and more satisfactory than can be obtained for the same expense in any other method of culture, especially

for those who have a small plot of ground at their disposal. The price is comparatively reasonable, and will run about one dollar per 4½ foot box containing a good variety of plants. That is 20 to 25 cents per foot.

"The boxes should be of good size, and the depth and width at least six, or better, seven inches, and filled with a loose rich mould that will take up and retain a lot of water. They will do better on a west or north window, as the heat from the sun is very hard on them on a southerly or easterly exposure. With the proper selection of plants they will give good results on the latter as well.

"The great object is to select plants that will retain their foliage and keep green or flower all through the season. The great and only secret in their care is plenty of water and applied every day, as they dry out so quickly from exposure to the sun and wind.