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THE HOME GARDEN

GARDEN CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Prepare, by raking over, the surface for borders for sowing flowering annuals.

Plant—Hardy border plants, Alpines, climbers, shrubs (if not done), deciduous trees (if not done), fruit trees (if not done), and especially Delphiniums (if not done), Galliardias, Gladioli, paeonies (if not yet done), rock plants, Pyrethrums, Hollyhocks, Phloxes, Michaelmas Daisies, Pentstemons, Asparagus, Patience, Seakale.

Sow—Hardy annuals, Peas for second early and main crop, Beet, Dwarf Beans, Broad Beans, Scarlet Runner Beans, Vegetable Marrow in heat, Celery, Cabbage, Savoy Cabbage, Cauliflower, Leek, Lettuce, (Cos and Cabbage), Onion, Melon in heat, Tomato in heat, Mustard and Cress, Parsley, Spinach, Cucumber in heat, Early White Turnip, Late Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Kale, Parsnip, Radish, Early Carrot, Intermediate Carrot, Aster, Stock, Balm, Zinnia, Fanny, Little Cineraria, Carnation, Primula, Grass seed, hardy annuals, half-hardy annuals, Godetia, Mignonette, Sweet Pea, Petunia, Cockatoo in heat, Wallflower, Colchic in heat, herbs, Asparagus, Artichoke, Rhubarb, Salsify, Scorzoneria, Seakale.

A GARDEN OF SWEET-SCENTED FLOWERS

HOW passing strange it is that so great a part of the charm and joy of gardens depends on the Invisible. One is apt to forget this, for grace of form and beauty of color are so interwoven in our minds with the idea of gardens that we fail to recognize the part which is played in them by that which we see not; yet there is something which pervades and permeates and makes an atmosphere about them that is far more strange and subtle, far more spiritual and penetrating than any of their tangible and visible delights—it is the gift of scent.

Priceless is this gift, yet nowadays by no means so appreciated as it might be. The added grace of perfume to any plant is accepted and enjoyed, but no special effort is made to procure or to retain it. "Exquisite bodies that have no souls" is a description that might apply to many of the flowers that are found adorable today. Some Roses, for instance, magnificent, but scentless; Chrysanthemums, coaxed to grow to such outlandish sizes that they have no strength left for fragrance; orchids, most modern of all flowers, which have no perfume of their own, but borrow, as it were, the scent of others; dahlias, glowing brilliant, as living flowers of the sea; and a host beside. Far too many scentless flowers are now the fashion.

Still, there are some among us who, half weary of mere beauty, turn gladly to the homely sweet-smelling plants of the old-world garden, where blow the cabbage and the moss rose, the delicious clove, the perfumed pink, the gentle musk, the honeysuckle and fragrant jasmine. But many of our sweetest flowers are less good looking than those we have mentioned, and only a few of them are of much use in making a display, so, as most of us are bent on having gardens that are pictorial, it comes to pass that the sweet, homely plants get crowded out; there is even danger that in course of time a good many of them may be forgotten.

Another reason why a garden of sweet-scented flowers is now so seldom seen may be because the making of such a garden presents no particular difficulties, and difficulties are what the modern gardener most enjoys. Any one may possess a good collection of fragrant flowers if only he has a mind to do so, but just because there are no dear, delightful obstacles to encounter, no large sums to be expended, no ideas of startling the world with something hitherto undreamed of, the thing is left undone. All is too straightforward to be interesting, or rather too straightforward, for to furnish such a garden as the one we are thinking of means a good deal of dipping into the past. Among the hundreds of gardens where scent is enjoyed as a side issue one can only recall one, or at most two, where it is made a special feature of.

Scented Flowers of Winter

There is absolutely no time of the year when the garden need be scentless. A good many late December and early January blossoms are sweet enough to prove the sun has more power in the short days than we imagined. The creeping winter heliotrope, the wall-loving winter sweet and silken sky blue blossoms of iris stylacea make a nosegay that could hardly be more fragrant if made of summer flowers, and all are hardy, belonging to the open garden and the open air. With them we may gather mid-winter Violets. There are many scented leaves, too, that will yield their perfume if we ask them. Myrtle, sweet bay, rosemary, santolina or lavender cotton and many perennial and fragrant herbs. The permanency of leaf odors is a strong reason for growing as many sweetleaved plants and shrubs as possible. In winter, more especially, we are grateful to the scented leaf.

Fragrant Flowers of Spring

Violets and primroses seem like children of one family, so much do they grow together. They are the very first flowers one thinks of in the fresh and happy spring-time. How ut-

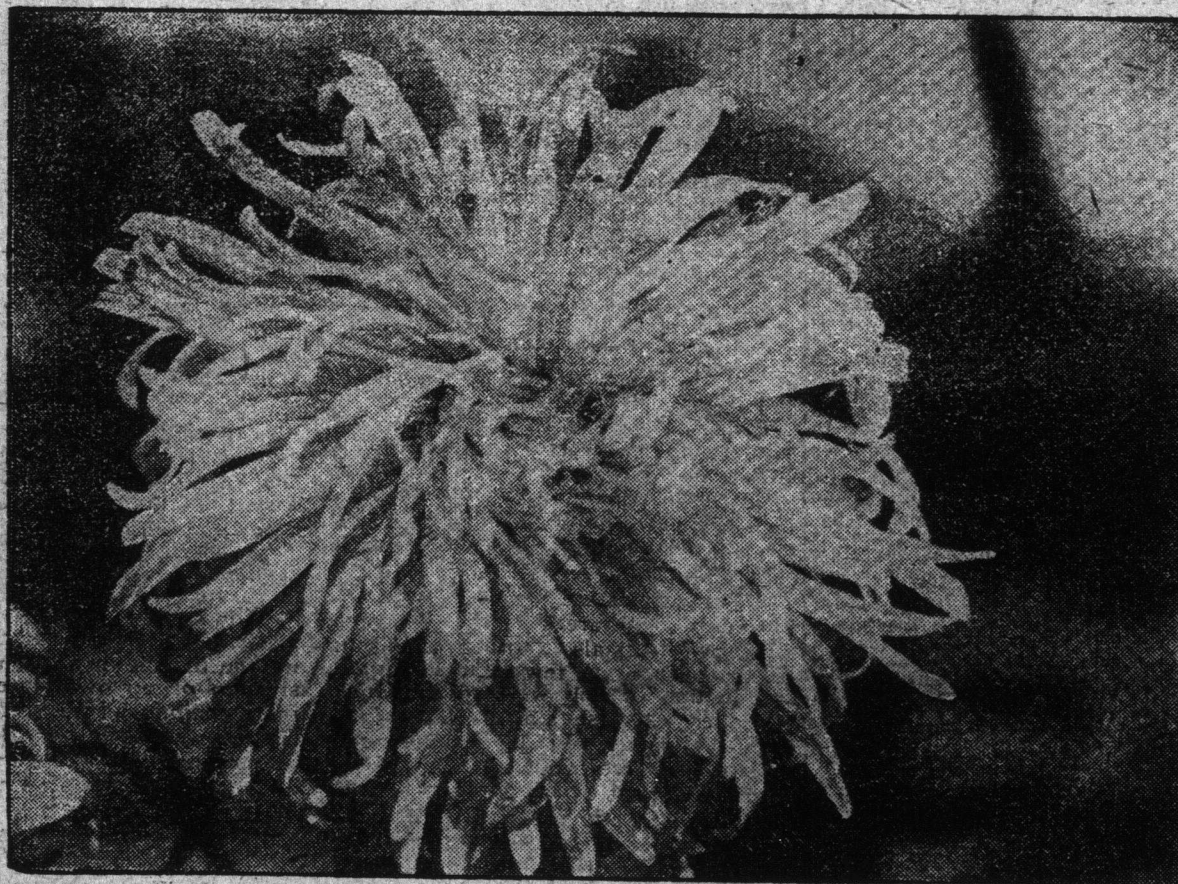
terly delicious the smell of a freshly-gathered bunch of primroses, how soft, how cool, how clean; and before these, the dear little crocuses and snowdrops, not with strong scents, but with fragrances that are just individual enough to know them by. Is it not the individuality of a flower that most endears it to us? The violet, for example; you enter a room where there is but one, hidden away, perhaps, where you cannot see it; but who can mistake the dear little tune it sings? It is distinctive as the note of a robin and lovable for the same reasons, for its familiarity, unchangeableness and the pathos of old association.

Wallflowers, Hyacinths and the Poet's Narcissus.—All these spring flowers have exquisite fragrances, and each one is entirely different from the other. A little later on and flowering trees and shrubs will be shedding new perfumes on the air; lilacs best of all, perhaps, Walter Whitman thought so, anyhow, but some would choose syringa (so-called), apple blossom, lime tree blossom, almond, acacia or the budding larch. We do not put the scents

flowers; the Night-blooming scented Cactus is enough to tempt anybody, but really it is better that we should dot the flowers about in careless fashion and let them take us by surprise, like children who hide their treasures and then forget them on purpose, to have the pleasure of finding them again.

The Healthfulness of the Scented Garden

Floral and leaf odors are antiseptics, the essential oils of Rosemary, Lavender and Eucalyptus being among the most efficient. Perfumes made from flowers possess special health value. Why not scent cures? To smell Sweet Briar, they say, makes anybody cheerful. The perfume of a Rose will often take away a headache, and any scent in which Rose is the principal ingredient is highly tonic and invigorating. Lavender has similar refreshing qualities, and flowers of delicate perfume soothe the nerves of invalids. "A Rose garden is no place for grief," said Sadi of old. —Frances A. Bardswell in The Garden.



Comet (Chrysanthemum) Aster

THE Comet Aster is the nearest approach to a chrysanthemum of any flower grown. It is unusually large, running 4 to 5 inches in diameter when well grown. The petals are double the length of those in the older varieties, and are twisted and curled in such a manner as to give the blossoms an exceedingly beautiful appearance. The plants are large and vigorous, producing their blossoms on very long stems. The central stalk is very short, the branches, breaking out very near the ground, are generally clean their entire length, needing little or no disbudbing. The seed is sown either in flats in the greenhouse or in a moderate hot-bed in April. When the second leaf is well advanced the seedlings are pricked off into other flats, or cold frames, about three inches apart each way, where they are allowed to stand until they are strong and stocky, and are then transferred to the garden and planted 15 inches apart each way, usually some time in June. It is found that there is little advantage in early setting in the garden, unless it is with the extra early varieties. The blossoming season cannot be hurried appreciably, and the longer season of growth simply permits the plant to produce a mass of short trashy stems and suckers around the bottom, which are of no benefit either to the plant or to the grower. The soil should be well enriched, the fall before if possible, then worked until it is deep and fine before setting plants. An application of nitrate of soda, about 100 pounds per acre, about the time the buds are forming, will usually result in longer stems and larger blossoms. Cultivation should be frequent but shallow, as the feeder roots lie near the surface.

HOW I GROW PRIZE ASTERS

At an exhibition last year I had three entries of asters, and secured first, second, and third prizes, the first prize lot being flowers five inches across on stems twenty-six inches long. I grow preferably white, pink, and lavender. These colors are not to be found, however, in the packets of mixed seeds on the market, in which red and blue generally predominate. Pay the highest price and get good seed. For a small garden one packet is sufficient, giving at least 300 plants. The seeds may be planted in a mild hotbed or coldframe from the 15th of March to the second week in April. If you have no hotbed, procure from the grocer a few shallow boxes about three inches deep and of a size to be easily handled. Punch a few holes in the bottom of these boxes for drainage and fill with rich garden mold. Mix a few leaves with this, because when the young plants are being transplanted these leaves will stick to the smooth rootlets and protect them to some extent from serious injury.

Pack the earth slightly with a board, plant the seeds about half an inch apart and cover with about one-fourth of an inch of soil. Water thoroughly and, to keep the soil moist, cover the boxes with brown paper. Place the boxes in a south window where the temperature does not rise above 60 degrees nor fall below 40 degrees. Remove the brown paper when the small plants begin to appear above the surface, which will be in about ten days.

Should the plants appear to be growing tall and spindly, raise them gently with the handle of a teaspoon and replant them deeper in the soil. While a few plants may die from

the effects of this operation, those that do survive will be strong and free blooming.

Prepare a small bed about four feet square and where it will be partially shaded and protected from the north wind in some way, if only by a 12-inch board placed on edge. Let the soil be as rich as possible. Last season, I found that my bed required only fifty cents' worth of liquid and commercial fertilizer. When the second set of leaves appears, transplant to this bed, placing the plants about two inches apart each way. Do not neglect to keep the soil well watered. A slight frost will not harm the plants, but should a heavy frost threaten, protect them with some old newspapers. If not too much trouble, transplant again in about ten days. I have always obtained my best blooms from plants that were moved three times.

Set the plants from ten to fifteen inches apart each way, and as mine grow I carefully trim off all the side shoots, leaving but six or eight. Keep the ground constantly stirred about the roots until the plants are about a foot high. In this way I obtain beautiful specimens.

A few wheelbarrow loads of old horse manure scattered about three inches deep all around the plants will enrich the ground considerably. If this cannot be conveniently obtained, clippings from the lawn will answer the purpose. By the middle of July some of your plants will be so large as to require staking. Put the stakes in the side of the bed away from the street, so that the plants will screen them from the passerby. Do not tie with string as it will cut the plants, but use pieces of cloth for the purpose.

In some localities asters are very much troubled by flies, bugs, and caterpillars. Cover the bottom of a shallow pan about fifteen inches in diameter with water, to which add one-half teaspoonful of carbolic acid. Hold the pan beneath the plants, and slightly tap them with a piece of shingle. This causes the bugs to fall into the pan, where they quickly die. Do this frequently. I have found it to be the most effective and, in fact, the only reliable method of controlling these pests. The best time to do it is at dusk.—M. H. Westbrook, in Garden Magazine.

THE USE OF WALLS FOR FRUIT CROPS

There are many walls of dwellings and other buildings which might, with great advantage to the owner or occupier, be used for the shelter and training of fruit trees. The trees can be relied upon to produce crops during most seasons if proper treatment is given them. This cannot be said of those in more exposed positions, owing to the uncertainty of the weather during the flowering. It is an easy matter to protect trees growing on walls, but to those in the open this is almost impossible. Many walls are bare which, with very little expense, could be made a source of pleasure and profit, while others facing the south, in warm situations, are covered with ivy and other trailing plants which are of little value or beauty. There are positions where fruit trees would not succeed; plant the climbers in those places where they will flourish, but devote the warm, south aspects to fruit crops. I am not advocating the destruction of the rare climbers which need protection, but the common sorts, which are out of place in such positions. If the soil is poor or otherwise unsuitable dig it out and provide a suitable material. If several trees are to be planted begin at one end of the site and dig out to the depth of 2-3 feet and to a distance of 3 feet from the wall.

Provide drainage by placing 6 inches of broken bricks, stones or chalk at the bottom of the trench, arranging this so that it is slightly higher near the wall. This, in addition to providing drainage, will also prevent the roots from penetrating into the subsoil, which is de-

trimental to their well being. If possible, procure the top spit from an old pasture, and to every three barrowloads of this mix half a barrowload of wood ashes, or, if the loam is heavy, partially burn a portion of this and mix with the bulk; also add about a peck of half-inch bones to four barrowloads of the compost. For Peaches and all other stone fruit add to the above one barrowload of old mortar rubbish to eight barrowloads of the loam. Fill the soil in the open trench, and tread firmly as the work proceeds.

Should the soil be under cultivation and in good condition, it may be rendered suitable for planting with fruit trees by trenching, adding the manure, wood ashes and bones in the same proportions as with the new loam. In all cases thorough preparation is necessary. No amount of manure applied on the surface after the planting is completed will make amends for neglect in this respect. The fruits to grow are those most successfully grown in the locality. On a south wall, in a warm climate, Pears, Peaches and Apricots may be planted. Plums, Cherries, Gooseberries and Red Currants will succeed on a north wall, Pears and the choicer varieties of Plums on a wall facing west, and an east wall is suitable for Plums, Gooseberries, Cherries and the Loganberry.

Supposing a wall space suitable to accommodate one tree is at liberty, and that the situation is south or nearly so, then I know of no more suitable fruit tree for an amateur to plant than a good variety of the Pear, trained in the fan shape.

In selecting Pears, and indeed all fruits, it is important to take into consideration not only soil but climate. It is of little use selecting the best varieties if they are not suitable to the locality. Disappointment often follows want of judgment in this respect. Before planting I would advise the intending planter to ascertain which sorts of the individual fruits flourish best in his part of the country, then a selection of the best may be made. Do not purchase unnamed so-called cheap trees, which are seldom satisfactory, but go to a firm of good repute, where clean, healthy trees, true to name and grafted or budded on suitable stocks, can be obtained.

Some of the best Pears require double grafting to ensure fertility. If a considerable wall space is to be covered, cordon-trained trees are best for Pears, Currants and Gooseberries. For Pears the single cordons are the best, but for Currants and Gooseberries the double and treble cordons are preferable. By planting cordon fruit trees the wall is quickly covered. Another advantage, and an important one, is that quick returns may be secured from them, while should one fail from any cause it may be easily removed and replaced by another, or a shoot may be trained from the base of the adjoining tree to fill the vacant place.

Choose a fine day for planting when the soil is in good condition for working. Cut off all damaged portions of the roots with a sharp knife, also cut back any long, coarse roots, thereby promoting fine fibrous roots, which are essential to the fertility of the trees. When cutting the roots, instead of inserting the knife under them, a clean cut should be made on their upper surface, this will cause the fibrous or feeding roots to be produced near the surface of the soil, where they will receive the beneficial effects of sun and air. Do not allow the roots to become dry before planting. When all is ready open the holes and place the trees in position. Care should be taken that they are not buried too deeply. Spread out the roots in a horizontal direction and work some of the lightest soil between them with the hands. The soil must be made quite firm by treading. The trees should be loosely secured to the wall to prevent their being injured by the wind, but the final nailing or tying must be left until the soil has become settled. If the weather be very dry give a good soaking of clear water to settle the soil about the roots, afterwards applying a good mulch of manure, which will check a too rapid evaporation.—C. Ruse.

FORCING THE WHITE LILY

The bulbs should be lifted and potted in the fall in 6-inch or 7-inch pots, according to the size of the bulb; the ordinary mixture of loam and sand will suit them very well. Place the pots on ashes in the open where they may remain until there is danger of the frost bursting the pots, when they should be protected with a frame, there to remain until the flower spikes begin to push up in the spring. Give just sufficient water to encourage root action. The pots may then be removed to a temperature of about 50 to 55 degrees; they dislike hard forcing at this stage. Stand the pots on the ground to keep them as cool as possible. A good place is under the front wall of the house where the sun's rays do not reach them. When growing freely give plenty of water and syringe twice a day. When the flower heads begin to expand and the buds to swell they may be placed in the hothouse, when they will quickly open in perfect form. Pick out the anthers as each flower opens to preserve their pure whiteness. Started in batches at intervals of ten days, a succession may be maintained from Easter onwards.