

Hollyhocks as Shelter Plants for the Apiary.

595. SIR,—I have hollyhocks planted on the west side of my bee hives, for the purpose of keeping off the hot sun in summer. The leaves have become affected with rusty spots and have dropped off. Can you explain? And what could I plant in their place which would answer the same purpose?

Reply by Prof. John Craig.

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Hollyhocks are frequently and seriously affected with a disease classed among the "rusts" and scientifically known as *Puccinea Malvacearum*. This appears on the leaves of the hollyhocks and closely allied plants, causing brownish rusty patches. This disease has been introduced from Europe and seems to be spreading quite rapidly. Some successful results in treating it have been reported, where Bordeaux mixture was used as a spray.

Wherever plants are seriously affected, it will probably be best to root them up and destroy them. As a substitute for the hollyhock, I would suggest some of the tall growing double forms of the sunflower family. We have now many double varieties of *Helianthus*, which are very desirable for positions where they serve the purpose of a screen or a back ground, and I do not think of any other plant at the present time which would fill the position so well. One of the most desirable forms of the helianthus is that known as the Californian Double Sunflower.

Strawberries for Home Use.

596. SIR,—What two or three kinds of strawberries would you prefer to plant in the garden for family use?

J. DELGARMO, *Marmion*.

There is so much difference in taste that this question is not easy to answer satisfactorily to all concerned. We know some who prefer the sharp acid of the old Wilson to the milder flavors of other berries. We would recommend a trial of Downing, Cumberland, Sharpless, Saunders. Would our correspondent be kind enough to give the results of his experiment.

Grapes for Home Use.

597. SIR,—Please give me a list of grapes suitable for planting in the neighborhood of Owen Sound, for home use.

JOHN DELGARMO, *Marmion*.

The varieties most popular for home use or market are frequently changed, owing to the introduction of new kinds. We would recommend our correspondent to try for his section the Early Victor, Worden, Lady, Agawam, Diamond and Brighton.