

and covered over. Even these seeds would germinate if continued moisture is afforded them, but the roots being unable to penetrate the hard bottom soon die. Then see that the soil is loose below and rich enough, but remember that a very rich soil is not advantageous to have a good show of flowers, often the reverse; it will give you plenty of foliage but few flowers. Draw a portion of the soil away where you intend sowing, regulating the depth according to the size of the seed. For small seeds use a sieve to get a little fine soil on which to sow the seed; sow and cover with the sieve. Many small seeds are lost through insufficient covering as well as being too deep. Large seeds, such as sweet pear, lupins, &c., do not require this care, as they will vegetate under most unfavorable circumstances provided moisture enough is retained.

After sowing the seed the soil should be kept moist. If the ground is dry it would be better to wait for a shower of rain, and then do not let the soil dry up until the seeds are well up over the ground. Shade the land or you will be unable to do it properly. Avoid watering if you can, (as this makes the surface hard and crusty and more susceptible to drying up), if a fair moisture can be retained without it, but without shade it is impossible to succeed during our bright sunshiny days, for if allowed to become dry at a certain stage your seed is lost forever. Shading may be done by a bit of board raised on one side so as not to press on the soil, but some open substance such as spruce branches is better, as with anything close you will have to remove it when rain falls.

Bedding in its proper sense is scarcely a subject fit for amateurs to try unless they have the convenience of a hothouse, as it requires several thousand plants to fill a small bed, costing more than most persons would care to expend. I saw an article in one of our Canadian newspapers sometime ago recommending amateurs to try and imitate one of the most intricate beds done by the most expert gardeners at the Crystal Palace, and then said by many who saw it to be not very satisfactory. This bed took some fourteen thousand plants to fill it, and a small bed will take several thousand to carry out a simple design. To the amateur beginner I will give a bed filled in with plants that will not cost more than one dollar for seed, and few beds will be more attractive, and it will be sure to elicit much admiration from those who see it. I would suggest a circular bed of ten feet diameter,