

The flowers of the canna have been much improved of late through the efforts of M. Crozy, the French hybridist. The variety named after him is still one of the best, some of the blooms reaching a diameter of six inches. Other good varieties are Star of 1891, and Crown Jewel. The varieties distributed this year by the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association are unnamed hybrids, many of them being hybrids of Madame Crozy. These will do well for our first experience with cannas, and another year we should try some named varieties.

The canna may also be grown in the window garden. For this purpose it should be started in the fall in six-inch pots in a warm, sunny window, with plenty of water. When pot-bound, remove to ten-inch pots, in which they will bloom freely. In the spring, plant them in the open ground and they will recover their vigor and be ready for blooming next winter.

TUBEROUS BEGONIA. I have had no success with this flower as yet, but I hope that I have learned enough from past failure to succeed during the coming season. The bulbs should be planted in pots one-half inch larger all around than the bulb itself, and scarcely deep enough to be out of sight. They should be then kept in a warm dark place until the roots have formed, and then afterwards brought to the light in a temperature of about sixty degrees. In about six weeks after the tubers start to grow, they should be shifted into five-inch pots and left in them to bloom, giving plenty of water and shading them from the hot sun. Bulbs of this flower were distributed by our Society a year ago, and very many members reported failure through mismanagement. If there are any who had success, we hope they will report to-night and describe the treatment they gave them.

SWEET PEA. The sweet pea is one of the popular flowers of the present day, and very appropriately has been placed in the list distributed among the members of our progressive society. It is not a new flower. About two hundred years ago it was introduced into England from Sicily, but in those days there were only two varieties, known as the White Sweet Pea and the Painted Lady. Though much prized for its perfume and beauty, it is only of late years that it has become a special favorite, and its present popularity is largely due to that sweet pea specialist, Mr. Henry Eckford, of Shropshire, England, who has given the world a large number of improved varieties. The greatest American sweet pea genius is Mr. W. T. Hutchins, who wrote "All about Sweet Peas," and the largest grower in the world is Mr. W. C. Moore, of California, whose sweet pea garden covers 250 acres. I take it none of us will ever want to grow so many as that, but if every member succeeds with his or her ounce of seeds, the sweet pea will be the flower in Grimsby in 1896. How shall we succeed best then?

1. By choosing a *suitable place*, not too prominent. It is a modest flower, and will be best planted at the side or rear of the house and allowed to ramble about upon chicken wire fence, over bushes, or, if you choose to take the trouble, a neat wire trellis may be built on purpose for its accommodation. Under favorable conditions it will often climb up as high as four or five feet, or sometimes more.

2. *Your soil must be rich and moist.* Thin dry soil, such as many of us have tried them on, the writer among the number, is unsuitable and will produce only failure. Such soils must have plenty of manure and plenty of water to give any good results at all.

3. *Cultivate well* until blooming time. Then, if sown thickly, thin the plants to six or seven inches apart.

4. *Plant deep.* Make drills from four to six inches deep and after sowing cover the seeds with about an inch of soil, drawing in the earth as they grow until the furrows are full.

5. *Sow early.* Any time in April will do in this latitude. Like garden peas, they are very hardy and may be given an early start with perfect safety.

6. *Pick pods* as soon as formed, or rather keep the flowers picked so closely that no pods will form.

As to varieties, Professor Bailey recommends the following as the six best: Blanch Ferry, Apple Blossom, Emily Henderson, Mrs. Gladstone, Butterfly and Countess of Radnor.