

poor grower while young,, but becomes more vigorous and productive with age. The berry is medium in size and very acid.

Chatauqua has the same fault as the Prince Albert, being a very slow grower when young, but very productive. The berry is large, light red, and the seeds are very large.

Perfection is a cross between White Grape and Fay's. The berry is very large, clusters are long and a beautiful bright red. Ripens with Fay's.

Raby Castle or Victoria is exceedingly productive, but is rather out of favor on account of its small size, larger currants having a preference on the market.

GOOSEBERRIES

People have been planting gooseberries extensively during the past few years, and at present prices they are profitable. Up to a few years ago the preference was for American varieties on account of their resistance to mildew, but recently, in the light of improved spraying methods, the English varieties have been largely planted. On the whole the latter sorts are much larger, but not of better quality.

There are innumerable varieties of English gooseberries, but only a few are grown commercially in Ontario, among the best being Industry, Lancashire Lad, Crown Bob, Keepsake, and Whitesmith. The Industry is a vigorous, upright grower and a heavy cropper. The berry is red when ripe, hairy, and has a pleasant, rich flavor. Lancashire Lad is not as strong a grower as Industry, nor as heavy a bearer. The berry is smooth and roundish-oblong, of medium size.

Crown Bob is another red berry favored by some, but we pulled ours all out, as they were poor growers and shed their leaves prematurely. The fruit is large, oblong, and hairy. The Keepsake is a large, straw-colored berry of excellent flavor, and can be pulled very early for green gooseberries. The Whitesmith, in my opinion, is the best of them all. It is very vigorous and an excellent bearer of large, oblong, smooth, greenish-white berries, the ribs of which are plainly marked.

There are practically only three American varieties that are worth planting commercially, namely, Pearl, Downing, and Smith's Improved. The Pearl is an exceedingly productive variety of good size and quality. It is as productive as Houghton, and larger than Downing. The Downing produces large, roundish, light green fruit which has distinct veins and a smooth skin. The bush is vigorous and productive. The Smith's Improved is a vigorous grower, and the berry is larger, oval, light green, and has a bloom. The flesh is moderately firm.

A Perennial Border at Small Cost

H.R.H., Que.

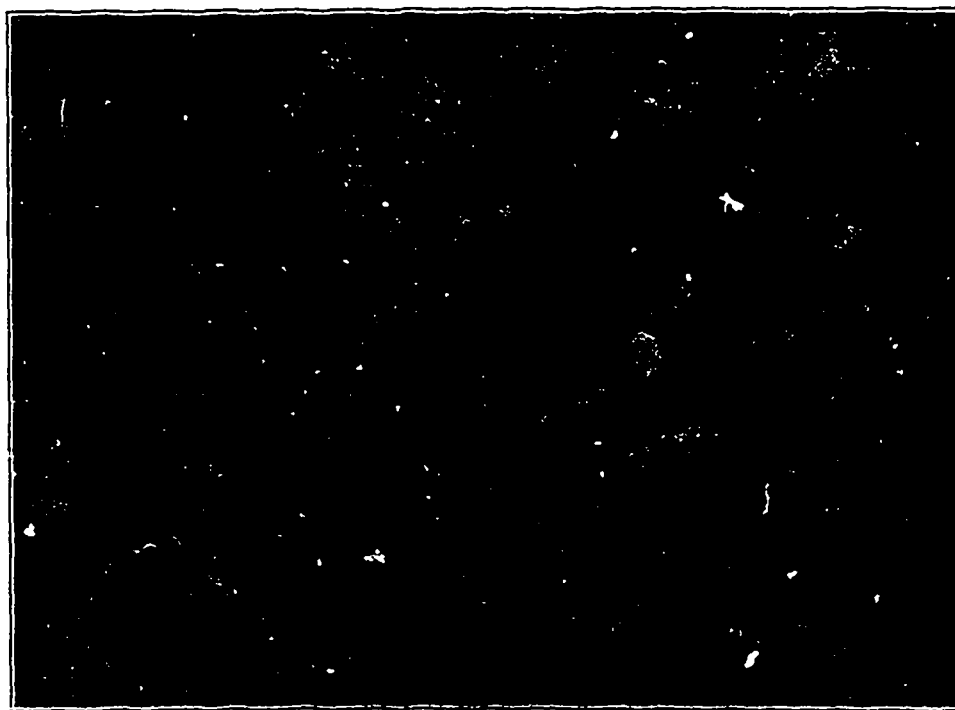
THE perennial border is a "thing of beauty" which is within the reach of every garden-maker, and yet, except in very large gardens tended by professional gardeners, very few successful ones are seen. Many amateurs shrink from undertaking a perennial bed for the same reasons which for many years caused me to confine my horticultural efforts to the cultivation of annuals, in spite of the fact that these require much more care and attention and reward one's best care but for a single season. These reasons are, firstly, the by no means trifling expense of establishing a well-filled bed of good perennial plants; and secondly, the mental vision of a semi-naked bit of garden forming an eyesore during the two or three years that must elapse before the plants grow to sufficient size to cover the ground and produce the abundance of bloom desired. As an amateur who has successfully overcome both these difficulties I should like to give others the benefit and encouragement of my experience.

Having decided that I would have a perennial border, and having likewise determined that the cost must not be great, I started operations in the fall, marking out my bed along the west side of my lot, a length of eighty feet, and making the bed eight feet wide. This area I had dug up and the soil thoroughly worked to a depth of three feet. A large load of well rotted manure was distributed over the surface and dug into the soil, then the bed was raked over

and made ready for the fall setting-in of plants. Spring planting, of course, is often practised.

Behind the bed was an ugly wire fence separating my lot from that of my neighbor; to cover this completely, permanently and promptly was my first problem, and a serious one it proved, for to buy enough plants to set out a hedge eighty feet long involved too much expense, and the plants would take several years to grow to the height required to conceal the fence and form an adequate background for my border. After careful consideration I decided to plant a thick row of common elder which grows wild in large quantities in most parts of the country, and is extremely easy of cultivation. A man with a cart dug, hauled and planted, with my supervision and assistance, enough thrifty young bushes to line the entire fence; every single root grew and flourished, and, the following season, formed a complete screen of its own peculiarly effective, light green foliage, surmounted with white blossoms and later with clusters of red berries. The result has given me cause for much self-congratulation. By the time my background was established, the perennial roots and plants I had ordered from the seedsmen had arrived, and these were duly set out in their allotted positions, as shown in the diagram. The supply was modest, not to say meagre, considering the extent of the bed. It consisted of:

Ten large-sized delphinium roots, ten



A Veteran Amateur Gardener: Mr. J. G. Graham, St. Thomas, Ont.

Mr. Graham was awarded first prize last year for his vegetable garden, in a contest conducted by the St. Thomas Horticultural Society.