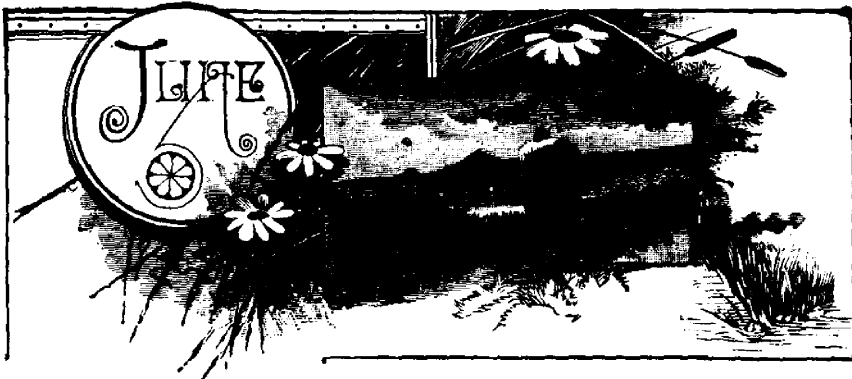


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HERBACEOUS PAEONIA.



AMONG all the long list of herbaceous perennial plants with which we may decorate our lawns, there is none more desirable than the herbaceous paeonia, of which our colored plate this month is an excellent representation. Some varieties are delicately scented, almost equal in perfume to the rose; and their huge blossoms, with their wide range of colors, as white, salmon, pink, purple, and even scarlet and crimson, make them very showy, and very suitable for planting in beds a little distance from the house, while if set off by a dark green background, they will be yet more pleasing. Another suitable position is in front of a large shrubbery, and with perennials in the wide borders of the lawn; for it is able to endure a certain amount of shade.

The arrangements of shrubs and perennial flowering plants is too little considered in planting, and we too often see them dotted about over a lawn in the regularity of a corn field. Such a mistake spoils the effect. The most pleasing arrangement is secured by grouping varieties together, with the taller growing ones in the centre and the whole perhaps edged with spring flowering bulbs.

One essential to success is a deep rich soil with plenty of manure. If thus treated, they will well repay the outlay by most magnificent blooms.