

(5) A garden of vegetables supplies a farmer's table with a variety which would be expensive in a city, and, when near a city, or where transportation is cheap, can be made quite profitable as well.

(6) Lastly, a garden of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, and an orchard of graceful trees, give a farm an attractiveness that it could not otherwise possess, and form the main beautifying feature of country scenes.

Early Spring Bulbs.

Many plants, during periods of cold or drought, preserve themselves in the form of bulbs. Such plants are called bulbous-rooted, though, properly speaking, the bulb is not a root, but simply an enlarged underground bud. On the return of warmth, or moisture, as the case may be, fresh buds shoot up from the parent one, feed on the food material stored in it, and develop into plants, some of which are among the most esteemed of our vegetable favorites. The garden onion is a typical bulb; and of the bulbous-rooted flowering plants the most commonly known, as well as the most beautiful, are the hyacinth, the narcissus, the jonquil, the crocus, the tulip, the freesia, the Chinese lily, and the Easter lily.

Bulbous-rooted plants are not any more difficult to grow than those that are raised from the seed, or from slips. They are cultivated now much more generally than they used to be. The hyacinth is, probably, the most popular of them all. What can be prettier than its many clusters of flowers, so daintily surrounded by a circle of green? So many shades of color, too—blue, red, and yellow—interblending with one another; and the pure white ones the handsomest of all. Hyacinths may be grown in pots, or in glasses containing only water. There are hyacinth glasses specially used for this purpose. Flowers appear earlier by this latter mode of cultivation, but are not so fine, nor do they last so long, as those from potted bulbs. Rain-water is preferable to spring water; and, as the roots should be disturbed as little as possible, the water should not be changed—only replenished occasionally. A little charcoal in the water will keep it fresh. On the whole, however, it is more satisfactory to plant the hyacinth bulb in earth. A good soil can be made from ordinary garden loam, enriched with manure and leaf mould. Place the bulb on the top of the soil, that its young rootlets may get the full benefit of the water on the surface, and set the pot, for a few weeks, in a dark, cool room, or in the cellar, until the plant has a good

start, when it may be taken up to the light. At all times, however, the hyacinth needs a cool temperature, a shady position, and a good deal of moisture. Occasional sprinkling of the whole plant with water is very beneficial. The hyacinth is well adapted for outdoor cultivation. If the bulbs are planted in the autumn, about six inches apart, they produce a bed of most beautiful flowers in the spring.

The narcissus grows readily under care similar to that bestowed on the hyacinth. It must be kept constantly moist. Its drooping blossoms of white and yellow are exceedingly beautiful, though evanescent. The jonquils and daffodils are varieties of narcissus. No flower, except the rose, figures so much in English poetry as the daffodil. Every one recalls the poem:

"Fair daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon, . . ."

in which the poet, in words and thoughts as sweet and graceful and beautiful as the flower itself, likens human life, in its fleeting beauty, to the daffodil. There are many new varieties of narcissus, but none more attractive than the old ones, such as the English daffadownilly, Lent lily, Medusa's trumpet, and the poet's narcissus. One of the prettiest varieties is the polyanthus, especially the kind that has pure white flowers. The polyanthus, however, is not as hardy as the others.

The crocus is a pretty little spring flower, and can be grown either in pots or out of doors, with little trouble or expense. It is not as beautiful as the hyacinth or daffodil, but, for all that, it has an attractiveness of its own—a simple little flower wandering through the grass, and appearing very early.

The tulip is another standard bulbous-rooted plant. The size and beauty of its flowers are remarkable. All the colors of the rainbow are represented in a gorgeous tulip bed. The bulbs are planted towards the end of October, and the flowers appear early in summer. Protected by awnings or canvas from the heat of the midday sun, the tulip blooms to better advantage. The later varieties are much finer than the early ones. The prettiest, by far, is the parrot or dragon tulip, with its shaggy or fringed petals curving over at the edges.

The freesia is another bulbous-rooted plant that blooms in the spring. It is not as well known as the others mentioned, but well deserves a place in our gardens and flower pots. The flowers are eight or ten in number, growing on one branch. They are about two inches long, and are exceedingly fragrant. The freesia needs plenty of water and sunshine. When it finishes blooming in the