

unfit for a small garden. I, however, grow three each year in my little garden, and their handsome leaves and luxuriant growth I continually admire. Gerard (about 1569) describes this plant under the name of "Flower of the Sun," marigold of Peru, "that it grew in his garden in Holborn (London, Eng.) 14 feet high, with flowers 16 inches across." These large flowers have been known to contain more than 2,300 seeds. The seeds are excellent for fattening poultry, and the oil from the seeds makes good salad oil.

SCABIOUS—SCABIOSA

This flower is found in the Caucasus, Phrygia and south of Europe, and is known as the Pincushion Flower, Blue Bonnet, Blue Buttons, Gypsies Rose, Devil's Bit,

and the purple one as the Mournful Widow. It derives its name from Scabies, because the common sort is said to cure this and other cutaneous complaints, and on this account it is fabled that the devil having found the plant in Paradise, and envying the good this herb might do to the human race, bit away a part of the root in order to destroy the plant, but which still continues to flourish with a stumped root, and hence one of the species is called Devil's Bit. The Scabiosa is an old favorite, and of late years has been greatly improved. The plant is 12 to 24 inches high, the flowers are white, pink, scarlet, crimson and maroon, borne on long wiry stems, and excellent for bouquets. It is an attractive flower in the garden.

Ground Ivy in Lawn

PROF. H. L. HUTT, ONT. AGRIC. COLLEGE,
GUELPH.

The grass on a portion of my lawn is being smothered by a noxious weed, a specimen of which I enclose. It seems impossible to destroy it. Kindly state best means to eradicate the weed.—(J. Gardner, Bayfield, Ont.)

The weed is the Ground Ivy (*Nepeta Glechoma*), one of the creeping species of the mint family. This plant has been used largely as a trailer in the making up of hanging baskets, but when it escapes from such cultivation it becomes a very troublesome weed in the lawn. It has a creeping stem, which works through the grass and strikes root at every joint.

In moist shady places it often crowds out the grass entirely. It has, however, very shallow roots, and the easiest way to get rid of it is to remove a couple of inches of the surface soil in which it is growing so as to entirely remove the rooting portions of the stem and replace with fresh sod or soil. If soil is used instead of sod, a fine surface should be made and lawn grass may be sown at any time, preferably early in the spring.

Pests on Clematis Vines

W. T. MACOUN, CENTRAL EXPER. FARM.

I have two clematis, a *Jackmanii* and a *Henryi*, which were attacked last year in a rather peculiar manner. A stem would suddenly wither and lie down to the ground, a little while after another would do the same, until the *Jackmanii* appeared to be completely dead. The *Henryi* had only two or three stems killed. Both are alive and growing again this year, but a few days ago one stem of the *Henryi* wilted down as last year. What is the cause? Have looked for insects at roots. Would the trouble be caused by dogs? Other flowers are not affected in the least degree.—(E. Gurney, Hespeler.)

The large flowering clematis are frequently affected with a disease caused by a very small nematode worm which works on the roots of plants, causing the whole top to die or part of it at a time. This little worm does most damage to young plants in the greenhouse, and it is supposed that it is brought from the greenhouse outside with the plants.

The best remedy known is to allow the soil in which the plants are growing to freeze to a considerable depth, as it is believed that this will destroy the nematodes. The insects at the roots would not be noticed as they are very small.