

The Garden.

DAHLIAS.

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER.

SIR,—The Dahlia has not received in this country the attention to which its good qualities entitle it, for, taking into consideration the perfection of form in the flowers, their brilliancy of colouring, and the profusion of bloom produced, it stands unrivalled as a garden ornament when well grown. Many persons who have grown them without trouble in Europe have been unsuccessful here, and in consequence, have abandoned them. Careful attention, under a right mode of culture, is all that is necessary, however, to produce in this climate as fine blooms as can be seen anywhere, and as we have been very fortunate with this flower, perhaps a few hints from us would not be unacceptable to many of your readers.

It is a somewhat singular thing that notwithstanding the most careful efforts of Hybridizers, no one has yet been able to raise a *blue* Dahlia or impart a pleasant fragrance to the flower. This latter is particularly a drawback, as it is the greatest objection advanced against their culture.

Dahlias are usually divided into two classes, 1st, STANDARD, OR LARGE FLOWERING, and 2nd, POMPONE OR BOUQUET, having small flowers and of a dwarf habit of growth. Regarding colour, the 1st class is again divided into SELFS or those of one color only, and FANCY or those having blooms which are variegated, striped, tipped or blotched. Some again make a selection of the *most dwarf* of Pompone Dahlias, with the smallest flowers and class them under the name of BEDDING DAHLIAS.

The following is a list of Large Flowering Dahlias for which we were awarded 1st prize at the Provincial Exhibition at Hamilton, last fall, with a description of the colours appended:

GOLDEN DROP.—Fine yellow, certain flower.

MISS HENSHAW.—Fine white, very large flower—first rate.

GEM (Stafford).—Maroon, tipped with white—extra fine.

PROSPERO.—Crimson, tipped with purple.

JRNO.—Fine lilac, the best flower in its class.

QUEEN MAB.—Red, tipped and edged white—extra fine.

CRITERION.—Creamy rose, large flower.

LADY G. HERBERT.—Light orange, deeply edged with crimson.

BOB RIDLEY.—Dark scarlet, good form.

BIRD OF PASSAGE.—White, delicately edged with pink—equal to any Picotee.

MULBERRY.

MRS. HOGG.—Pure rose color, very fine centre.

Our list of the 1st prize dozen Pompone Dahlias has been mislaid, but the following are six of the best:

GOLDFINCH.—Orange, tipped with purple.

DR. SCHWABE.—Deep scarlet.

THE MOOR.—Dark maroon.

MADAM CORDS.—Rosy lilac, tinged with yellow.

KLEINER ANSELM.—Amaranth, shaded violet.

LILLIPUTFURSTINN.—Light ground, tipped with crimson.

Many other fine kinds might be named, in fact this class now embraces every variety of colour to be found in the Large Flowering class.

It should be remembered that cultivators ought not to allow Dahlias to bloom during the hot weather of midsummer, as at this time the blooms will be small, will last only a few days, and greatly exhaust the plant; but keep the blooms carefully pinched off until the approach of cooler weather, say the beginning of September.

The Dahlia will grow in any fresh soil neither too light or heavy, but which will retain moisture, this being the grand desideratum, as the roots require keeping moist and cool. Procure healthy roots or plants in pots, being cuttings struck from old roots. The latter we use exclusively for growing our exhibition flowers, as they bloom more freely and produce finer flowers than roots.

After selecting the positions in which the plants are to be placed, make holes 15 to 18 inches in diameter and same in depth; then fill up the holes with decomposed cow or hot-bed manure, and if the soil is old or exhausted, the top spadeful of any old pasture that has been laid up to rot for a time should also be used. Incorporate the soil thrown out of the holes with the manure or compost; when done, there is