

Setting Out the Bedding Plants

WITH the arrival of June weather the temperature generally has become sufficiently high to permit of the majority of bedding plants being planted in the open. The main object in filling the beds should be to produce an effect that will be pleasing to the passer-by. The tastes of those in charge of planting vary so much that no two, perhaps, would make the same selections. Besides, the opportunities for preparing the plants will, to a certain extent, control the specimens used. If a greenhouse is at hand in which to propagate plants of all kinds, more variety can be had than if the plants are to be purchased in the spring.

In a recent interview with a representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, Mr. E. F. Collins, of the Allan Gardens, Toronto, discussed the most satisfactory plants for bedding purposes and the cultural conditions that produce the best results. The propagation of some of the plants commonly used for this purpose was dealt with by Mr. Collins in the January number of THE HORTICULTURIST. Those who have greenhouses will have a supply of bedding stock on hand, while those who have to secure their supply from a florist will be benefited by a review of his experiences.

"For bedding purposes on the average lawn," said Mr. Collins, "geraniums rank highest. For best effect they

should be planted one to every square foot in the bed. A circular bed 10 feet in diameter would require about 75. The silver-leaved geranium, Madame Saleroi, makes suitable edging for a geranium bed. They should be set about 10 or 12 inches apart. Asters, phlox and petunias also are very desirable on account of the great display that can be made by using them, as well as on account of their cheapness. These plants should never be set closer than 15 inches apart. They soon spread to cover the whole space. Cannas, too, are excellent for bedding purposes. They can be placed two feet apart if the plants are strong, and will present a grand display of both foliage and bloom.

"Nasturtiums fill an important place in the average garden. They are rapid growers and produce a good effect. Except for geometric beds the coleus is being discarded. By using the different varieties a brilliant color effect can be produced, but a late frost gives them a ragged appearance that requires several weeks to overcome, and later in the season the mealy bug frequently becomes troublesome, and the plants are practically destroyed in many cases. The leaves often fall off and the bare stocks present a repulsive appearance. This insect pest cannot be kept down after the plants are set in the open. The woolly covering which nature has provided so protects the insect that any

treatment that will destroy it also kills the plant. Irises, too, are suitable for color designs and patterns, but are not very commonly used. They are strong growers and free from insect pests. When set in the open they grow so rapidly that no damage is done by insects which are usually found on such plants.

"Begonias," continued Mr. Collins, "are very desirable for bedding purposes. When a bed is planted with some of the better varieties and edged with a plant of low growing and spreading habit, such as the sweet alyssum, the effect is very pleasing. The alyssum seems to have something that blends well with the begonias. Centaurea and such plants are not so suitable for edging beds of begonias. Beautiful effects can be produced on a large open space by planting a bed with yellow coleuses and blue ageratum. The plants should be set alternately with two coleuses to one ageratum. No matter how hot the weather the display is always attractive. Madame Saleroi geranium and the ageratum produce a similar effect. The plants should be set about one foot apart.

RIBBON BORDERS

"In making ribbon borders," said Mr. Collins, "the main point is to select colors that blend well. There is nothing better than pink, white and blue. Two rows of pink geraniums along the centre



Station Improvement Along the Line of The Canadian Pacific Railway

The Floral Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, under Mr. N. S. Dunlop, is doing excellent work improving the appearance of the railway stations along the line of the railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This illustration is from a photograph of the station at Markdale, Ont. Mr. J. Caesar is the agent.