

with the first unfolding of its leaves. Of all the early-blooming shrubs it is the finest and most desirable. Two other species have been recently introduced, but neither of them is equal to this species.

*Exochordia grandiflora*, a most beautiful shrub, growing about six feet high, blooming in May. The flowers, which individually are about an inch in diameter, are white with a green centre, and are produced in long, loose panicles. Unfortunately this elegant shrub is very difficult to propagate, and is therefore not readily to be had except of our principal nurserymen. It should be found in every garden.

*Hydrangea quercifolia*, the Oak-leaved Hydrangea, has strongly-marked handsome foliage, and produces large panicles of white flowers during the month of July. It makes a handsome specimen plant for a lawn.

*Hydrangea dentataefolia*, or *H. paniculata grandiflora*, is a species of recent introduction from Japan, with leaves resembling those of some species of *Deutzias*, and during August bearing immense panicles of pure white flowers, which afterwards change to pink, and finally so a purplish-brown color. It is one of the most valuable additions to our list of shrubs that has been made for many years.

*Syringa persica*, or Persian Lilac, is of a more delicate, twiggy growth than the common lilac, and produces larger heads of flowers of irregular shape, and is more suitable for small gardens. There is also a white variety that is very desirable, and is of still dwarfier habit. Both should be in every garden.

*Magnolia purpurea*, or Chinese Purple Magnolia, is an elegant shrub with bright glossy foliage and large, purple, tulip-shaped flowers. It is the better for being strowed up during the winter north of New York city, until it has attained some age, and the wood has become hard.

*Prunus sinensis*, fl. pl., or Double-flowering Chinese Plum, resembles the Double-flowering Almond somewhat, but is of stronger growth. It is a lovely, ever-blooming shrub with a profusion of snow-white flowers.

*Cydonia japonica*, or Scarlet-flowered Japan Quince, is a well-known early-blooming shrub, producing a profusion of deep scarlet flowers. It is indispensable in every collection.

*Spiraea prunifolia*, fl. pl., *S. Reevesii*, fl. pl., and *S. callosa*, should be in every shrubbery. The first two have pure white flowers, and the third, bright pink flowers in large flat corymbs. The first also makes a beautiful screen hedge, being of upright growth and throwing up its shoots thickly from the bottom, and bears clipping well.

*Philadelphas inodorus*, a species of what is generally known as the *Syringa*, or Mock-orange. This species is of more delicate growth than any of the others, and bears its large pure white flowers in threes and fours along the somewhat slender drooping branches, giving them the appearance of garlands.

*Viburnum plicatum* is a species of Guelder-rose, or Snow-hall, introduced some years ago from Japan; it is a robust growing shrub, with strongly-marked foliage, and branches spread somewhat horizontally; these produce at each bud a globular head of pure white flowers, which are so thickly set upon the plant as almost to hide the foliage. It is a very beautiful shrub.

*Weigela rosea* is a well-established favorite, but not seen as often as it should be, for

nothing can exceed its lovely apple blossom-colored flowers intermixed with its lively green foliage. There is a variegated-leaved variety which has lighter-colored flowers; it is one of the best variegated-leaved shrubs we have, retaining its variegation through the heat of summer, and at the same time being free from that sickly appearance which many such plants have. Another variety has lately been introduced under the name of *W. nivea*, which produces pure white flowers; it is very beautiful and useful in bouquets. It must not be confounded with another variety known as *W. alba*, the blossoms of which, as they become old, change to pale rose-color.

*Stuartia virginica* and *S. pentagynia* are highly ornamental shrubs, but somewhat scarce in the nurseries. They grow from five to six or more feet high, blooming from July to September. The first has pure white flowers, with bright purple stamens; the other has cream-colored flowers. The flowers are very large, from two and a half to three inches in diameter, and very much resembling those of the single White Camellia.

The above collection of twenty-five deciduous flowering shrubs comprise the *creme de la creme* of the catalogues of our leading nurserymen, and we feel assured that such of our readers as may obtain them will be well satisfied with them.—*Harpers' Bazaar*.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF ANNUAL FLOWERS.

Notwithstanding the hardy and permanent character of perennial plants and flowering shrubs, and their peculiar fitness for gardens and pleasure-grounds, where little is needed, which will always make them favorites in every ornamental plantation, the HARDY ANNUALS still have a beauty of their own, and possess qualities and merits which few other plants can claim. However so much we may admire the gorgeous display of the various bedding-plants, now so popular, yet a continuous and uninterrupted show of flowers from June to October cannot be obtained without the aid of the annuals; and if to this we add the claim of novelty and variety of color, we may well claim for the annuals a place second to no other garden-flowers.

The ease with which they are raised from seeds,—the little expense compared with bedding-plants,—their adaptation to all kinds of soils,—the little trouble they give the amateur, the rapidity with they come into bloom (some of them in a month's time), and the infinite number of forms as well as varieties of foliage,—all combine to render these hitherto somewhat neglected plants the greatest treasures of the garden,—“The flowers for the million.”

Who does not admire the glowing colors and rich mottling of the favorite Double Balsam, or the magnificent Double Aster? the Larkspurs, with their stately spikes of blue or white or crimson blossoms? the massiveness and splendor of the Double Zinnias? the feathery spikes of the crimson *Celosia*, which sparkle in the sun? the flaunting colors of the Double Poppies or the Double Portulacas, now resembling miniature roses? And where shall we find flowers that surpass in their delightful fragrance the Stock Gillies and Mignonnette?

Annuals, in fact, are *the* flowers. Not long ago, this, perhaps, could not be said; but, since the treasures of California, of Texas, of

Japan, and New Holland have been opened to us, a new order of things has begun. The florists, too, with fresh material, have worked with a will; and the Double Zinna, Double Portulaca, Double Aster, Double Heddewigii Pink, and a host of others, are the results of their labors devoted to a class of plants destined by their diversity of colors and continuous bloom to hold a prominent place in the affections of all lovers of beautiful plants.

We therefore make no apology for giving a few brief hints on the cultivation of the favorite annuals, as well as some of the showy biennials and perennials, equally important in the decoration of the flower-border.

#### ANNUALS.

Among florists and gardeners, the term “annual” is given to those plants which are sown in the spring, bloom and seed in the summer, and soon afterwards perish. A few are included among annuals, like the *Marvel of Peru*, &c., because they flower the first year: but they are only annual as regards treatment. By cultivators they have been divided into three classes; viz., *Hardy*, *Half-hardy*, and *Tender Annuals*.—a very convenient classification; and as such we shall treat of them here.

#### HARDY ANNUALS.

These are so called because they do not require any artificial heat at any period of their growth, and are capable of enduring any ordinary weather from April to November: a frosty morning, not unusually in the former month, or even in May, doing them no injury, if advanced beyond the seed-leaf. Many of them may be sown in autumn; and the young plants will make their appearance early in spring, and flower stronger than when it is deferred till April.

*The Soil and its Preparation.*—The best soil for annuals, and, indeed, for most flowering plants, whether biennials or perennials, is a light, rich loam, neither too sandy nor too stiff. In such they grow readily, and attain to great perfection of bloom, with but little care; but it is hardly necessary to say that few persons have just such a soil; nor is it possible often for the cultivator to have much choice. He must take such soil as he has, and make the most of it; and, by the application of proper manures, or sand or clay, he can bring it to such a condition as to answer all the purposes of a flower-garden. Moving large masses of soil is very expensive; and writers who advise the addition of rich loam seem not to be aware of the difficulty of procuring it, or the expense and labor attending the same. For the complete garden of the wealthy, this may and should be done; but the mass of cultivators need not fear of obtaining good results without it. Deep and thorough trenching in the autumn, if possible, and the application of very old decayed manure or leaf-mould, will give the amateur a well-prepared and suitable soil. If the situation of the garden is low or damp, first of all it should be well drained; for, in addition to the injury from excessive moisture, such soils are cold, and the young plants are injured by early frosts, when they would escape damage in one of the opposite character. Neither should the situation be too dry, as, in this case, the plants would suffer in summer, and present a meagre in place of a vigorous bloom. Where the soil is too light, a thin layer of clay, if to be had, spread over the surface in the autumn, and dug in, after