



A Campanula Persifolia or Bell Flower

Like other biennials it may either be sown where it is to remain, any time after midsummer, or may be sown in beds in the spring for transplanting.

forcing pit should be at 70 degrees; to go beyond that point will cause the attenuated growth and poverty of color.

CULTURE IN GLASSES

It is of little consequence whether rain or spring water be employed in their culture in glasses, but it should be pure, and in the glasses it should nearly but not quite touch the bulbs. Store at once in a dark, cool place to encourage the bulbs to send their roots down into the water before the leaves begin to grow. When the roots are developed, bring the glasses from the dark to the light in order that the leaves and flowers may be in perfect health. It is not desirable to introduce in the water any stimulating substance, but the glasses must be kept nearly full of water by replenishing as it disappears. If the leaves become dusty they can be cleaned with a sponge dipped in water, but particular care must be taken not to injure them in the process.

MINIATURE HYACINTHS

The charming little sparkling hyacinths are invaluable for baskets, bowls, and other contrivances for the choicest decorative purposes. In quality they are excellent, the spikes being symmetrical and color brilliant; but they are true miniatures, growing about half the size of the others and requiring less soil to root in. They will flower well if planted in a mixture of moss and charcoal. Keep them moist and covered with the greenest moss to give the ornament containing them a finished appearance.

Mayflowers in January

W. W. McNeely

Among the readers of The Canadian Horticulturist there are many who long for the woodsy things, the flowers, ferns and plants that draw us to the forests irresistibly as soon as the robin returns. How often, during the long winter months we rebel against the snow and would gladly exchange all our hyacinths and tulips and freesias for one whiff of the hepatica's spicy fragrance.

To all such I bring greetings, to a few, perhaps, I bring joy—not this year maybe, but in the years to come. For as I write my window is bright with the blue and pink and white blossoms of the hepaticas, whose delicate aroma carry me back to the days when we went mayflowering, and dared each other to take off our shoes and wade the icy puddles. This, however, is distressing—but who could resist reminiscencing when one's window is full of mayflowers?

To have mayflowers or hepaticas in January requires absolutely no knowledge of floriculture. All that is necessary is to dig up a few roots in the woods just before the snow falls (or even after) and plant them in pots or boxes. Then place them in the cellar for a few weeks and bring them up to the light and heat. Keep them well watered and you will have an abundance of blossoms in two weeks. They never fail, and for an invalid or shut-in nothing will bring more pleasure than a little bowl of hepaticas when winter blasts are blowing.

After the flowers are nearly done the leaves grow luxuriantly. In some varieties the markings are quite pretty and the fresh green of the leaves is so appealing that I feel sure you will want the plants to remain on your windows after the flowers have delivered their message of hope and good cheer.

Planting Suggestions

J. McPherson Ross, Toronto, Ont.

For houses with low foundations plant low-growing plants and evergreens. These make a suitable fringe. For a house with high foundations and basement windows, taller growing shrubs and plants are suitable, as they hide the nether nakedness and give grace and beauty to otherwise ugly features.

The same enthusiasm evinced in spring gardening should be continued till the snow falls. Neatness and order give as much pleasure as floral effects.

Autumn has really more work to do in preparing the soil, rearranging beds and determining the effects for next season than the hurried time in spring will allow. Observe now the effect of certain combinations and aim to produce them in the most prominent places next

season. Flowers such as Lilius Candidum, Canterbury Bells, Foxglove, and all whites and blues give more pleasure during hot weather than the gaudy reds and yellows—which are more suited for cooler fall weather.

Dahlias will not bloom during very hot weather, the intense heat having a deterrent effect on buds, which frequently dry up and fall off.

Garden Promptings

Rake a pile of leaves into some out of the way corner to decay and furnish leaf mould for next year.

There is still time to plant tulip bulbs outside or hyacinths, tulips, narcissi, or daffodils for forcing indoors.

As soon as the ground begins to freeze cover the tulip bed with about four inches of heavy manure.

Well-rotted manure put on the lawn in the late fall will help to hold the snow and make a much better lawn next year.

Cover Boston ivy vines with straw as a protection against winter.

Rake up and burn all prunings and weeds in the orchard and garden.

As soon as the ground freezes cover the strawberry bed and bulb beds.

Place oak boughs that are holding their leaves over tender evergreens.

Prune and burn all diseased limbs or dry fruits clinging to the plum or apple tree.

Mulch orchard trees and shrubs with manure as soon as the ground freezes a little.

Draw the currant branches together and tie them to prevent their being broken down by the snow or sleet of winter.

Cut and burn asparagus canes. If well rotted manure is available mulch the bed well with it, plowing it in as early in spring as possible.

Place burlap, cornstalks, or boards on the south side of small smooth-barked lawn trees and apple trees to protect from sunscald during the winter.

Clean hay or straw may be placed on perennials and covered with boards or tar paper to prevent the plants from getting wet. It is well to avoid putting on any material that will smother the plants or permit of their getting wet.

Do not allow house plants to stand in water in the jardiniere. Water as frequently and thoroughly as the plant needs, but keep the jardiniere dry at all times.

After the chrysanthemum plants bloom cut down the flower stocks and set in a cool, light place until toward spring when cuttings may be made for next season's growth.

Rose bushes may be laid down and covered with earth, later covering the earth with hay or straw manure.