

wanted for planting. Consider well in arranging the beds, the nature and habits of the plants, colour of flower, time and duration of flowering, aspects, light and shade, so as to secure a pleasing effect and expression of purpose. The verbena, for a number of years has attracted the attention of florists in this country and in Europe, and has been brought to great perfection; its fine branching habits and adhesive tendency to the ground, combined with its hardness and numerous diversified colours, entitle it to a high station in the first order of bedding plants.

The verbena family is numerous and highly titled, but to approach its many noble names at present would be tedious; I shall therefore content myself by noting a few only:

*Domvilliana*—rich blush purple, large white eye; superb.

*Miss Breeze*—fine violet purple or crimson, with yellow eye.

*Cynthia*—bright vermillion, crimson shade, with large eye.

*Etonia*—rich indigo purple, large white eye, profuse bloomer.

*Lady Seymour*—deep rose purple, large white eye.

*Lady Palmerston*—fine blue, large white eye.

*Agnes*—violet purple.

*Brilliant DeVaise*—fine crimson scarlet, excellent bedder.

*Celestial*—rosy pink, immense truss.

*Charles Dickens*—rosy lilac.

*Geant des Batailles*—deep rich shaded crimson, one of the best.

*General Simpson*—large crimson, fine.

*Imperatrice Elizabeth*—violet rose, striped with white foliage.

*Souvenir*—rosy lilac, lemon eye, large truss.

*Eastern Beauty*—rich deep salmon rose, large lemon eye, fine.

*Sir Joseph Paxton*—light rosy red, large lemon eye.

*King of Sardinia*—fine scarlet.

*Magnificent*—fine large purple.

*Madame Abbet*—fine maroon.

*Madame Lamouier*—Satin rose, with clear white stripes.

*Mrs. Woodruff*—one of the finest scarlets in cultivation.

*Mrs. Holford*—white fine large portals.

*Phenomena*—deep crimson scarlet.

*Tranhy*—rosy purple.

The verbena is a very strong feeder, and requires a rich, free, soil; it is worthy of remark that on such a soil the flowers and truss are full and perfect,—whereas on tenacious soils, they are in general irregular and very imperfect.

*Heliotropiums* are much favoured as bedding plants; their fragrance alone is a great inducement to their cultivation; many of the varieties are highly worthy of attention; such as *Rine des Heliotrope*, *Souvenir de Siege*, *Beauty of the Boudoir*, and *Louis Faircliff*—they like a free rich soil.

*Petunias* are much of the same habit as the former, and require much about the same treatment. There are some very fine new double varieties of this plant, two I observed in Houghton nursery last year, *Madame Mielliers* and *Double White* and *Van Houtte* purple, they are very beautiful, and have a very rich fragrance, the many colours in the numerous single varieties is very worthy of attention.

*Scarlet Geraniums*, or those of that class, are many; much has been done of late years in hybridization; numerous excellent varieties are now produced, beautiful in flower and foliage. The brilliancy of these flowers and continuous flowering habits during the summer and autumn months render them highly worthy of cultivation. They are free growers, and like a rich sandy soil.

*Pot Roses*, as bedding plants, seem not to have as yet commanded attention here; this I think is to be regretted. What can be more beautiful than a bed of roses. The most suitable varieties for this purpose are the Chinese, *Not settes*, *Leas*, and *Hybrid Perpetuals*. Have the convexity of the bed formed according to its size, plunge the strongest growing kinds in the centre and the lesser gradually outwards to the edge; the varieties to be well mixed; the pot plunged at least one inch over the rim; as they grow keep intermixing them, and pressing them down; in this manner they form a beautiful mass that is very much to be admired.

*Carnations and Pinks*.—The *Carnation* is now considered a very good bedding plant, it is more better adapted for border and pot culture, but cannot, in justice, pass it by without noticing it as highly worthy of more general attention. I can well recollect, that about twenty or twenty five years ago the *Auricula*, *Polyanthus*, and *Carnation* attracted the attention of gardeners and florists equally as much as the *Prima Donna* of the present day; I am glad to observe that they are again becoming more noticed. But return to the *Carnation* as a border and pot plant,—prepare a compost of two-thirds good loam, one-third old hot-bed manure, with a good mixture of sharp sand, add a very little of new slacked lime, get all well incorporated six months previous to use, lay say twelve inches of this compost on a well-sheltered and drained border, plant 18 inches or two feet apart, either singly or in patches of three plants. For pot culture let the layers of last year be potted into full sized pots, say of eight or nine inches diameter, in which they are to perfect the flowers, have the pots well drained, watch and destroy all the grubs, worms, and slugs, attend to watering and sticking in both ways, and will progress favourably and flower abundantly.

*Dahlias*. If not down for propagation, time should be lost in placing them in the front or back of a melon or cucumber frame, or a bed prepared for the purpose. As the shoots advance to two or three inches take them off.