

HERBACEOUS PLANT NOTES.



THE fall planting of perennials should be attended to as soon as possible; delay until colder weather sets in is not advisable, because the plants may not then have time to form new roots and establish themselves firmly in their new quarter: before hard frost stops their growth. Many of the hardiest and coarser growers may occasionally come out all right when planted late, but with the more delicate dwarf species we should always be most careful. When plants have not taken a firm foothold in the soil the frost will lift them, exposing the crowns and often a part of the roots. Mulching and shading the beds will act as a preventative against this evil and it is advisable to apply this mulch to all fall-planted stock, even to the early plantings.

Dividing into very small pieces should never be practised in fall. Rare things are better left alone until spring, when they may be divided into single eyes if necessary, with much more safety. All plants which form soft, thick, fleshy roots are more liable to decay over winter when mutilated by division; therefore, it is better to wait with this operation until next April or May.

Grasses like eulalias and erianthus, do not usually take kindly to transplanting during the fall months; neither do the hybrid pyrethrums, especially when the clumps are to be divided. When plants have been specially prepared for fall planting, by dividing in spring or early summer, it is quite a different case. We then have small clumps, which in most instances can be taken up with a ball. Their roots are not mutilated by division and they quickly take a firm hold in the soil. With such young

and vigorous material we run no risk of failure and are enabled to produce a fine show in a bed, the border or a rockery in the coming season.

Primroses, auriculas, campanulas, aubrietias, veronicas, helianthemums, aquilegias, silenes, lychnises, iberises, alyssums, hepaticas, lobelias, omphalodes, polemoniums, rudbeckias or arabises and a host of other things may be used to advantage for planting in beds by themselves or intermixed. Some of them can remain in their places for a number of years undisturbed; others, if so desired, may be removed after flowering to make room for other plants.

For refilling these vacancies we need not necessarily rely on bedding stock of other potted plants. Many of our later blooming hardy plants will bear removal after growth is considerably advanced if we are a little careful with them. I have successfully moved heleniums, phloxes, helianthus, boltonias, cedronellas, lythrums, asters, rudbeckias, veronicas and others in July and August, while in full, vigorous growth. Two or three very liberal waterings assisted materially in the speedy recovery of the plants; the soft tips invariably stood erect by the next morning and remained in that position without any further attendance.

Of course all these plants were dug up carefully with a ball of earth, otherwise they surely would have suffered more or less, and where the plants have to be a long while out of the ground or transported to a distant point it is out of the question to refill beds in this manner, but in most places where perennials are grown in quantity such stock for this purpose is nearly always available.—*American Florist*.