

park that man has only to clear the way, make roads and plant flowers.

The number of flowers and shrubs that can be used for park purposes is almost unlimited. Much depends on the locality, the size of the park, and other conditions. This should be left to the taste and judgment of the superintendent. For solid, bold ef-

fect nothing equals geraniums and cannas. A great deal depends on the location of the beds, their size, the arrangement of colors of bloom, foliage, etc. The success and appearance of beds, shrubbery, etc., depends altogether on the good taste and judgment of the superintendent or city gardener.

## TROPICAL PLANTS WITHOUT A GREENHOUSE

**H**ORTICULTURAL enthusiasts in different lines take great pride in producing something extraordinary. The orchardist frequently prides himself in having one tree bear many different kinds of fruit. The market gardener, by use of hot beds or greenhouses, thinks he has done well if he catches the early market and big prices with his cucumbers or tomatoes. Florists with their huge greenhouses filled with the latest heating appliances, rejoice if they mature some of the tropical fruits. But for genuine enthusiasm in plant growing the work of Mr. Walter T. Ross, secretary of the Picton Horticultural Society, shows something positively beyond the hopes of an ordinary horticulturist.

Without the aid of any extra heat except what he has in his house and cellar, Mr. Ross has grown with success numerous tropical plants. It would take too much space to enumerate them all. A representative of *The Canadian Horticulturist*, who called on Mr. Ross recently, saw a typewritten list of plants, which filled three or four pages.

"The last two or three seasons," said Mr. Ross to *The Horticulturist*, "have been poor ones for work with tropical plants. It needs a very warm summer to ensure success. It is no more difficult to grow tropical plants than any other kind. The only extra care that is required is to protect them from frost. Conditions as near as possible to their natural conditions in the south

must be maintained. The greatest trouble I have is with the fruit falling off when it is quite small. Too much moisture or too much drought causes that.

"Those are my fig trees," said Mr. Ross, as he pointed to four fine healthy specimens in a row in his garden. "I always kept them in my cellar in tubs until last winter, but I thought I would try covering them outside. They were buried three or four feet deep and then brush was piled on top to hold the snow. When I took them out early in May they were quite healthy. The experiment was a success. I have four varieties which produce fruit of different sizes. There is no apparent flower but one fig comes in the axil of a leaf. I have promise of a fair fig crop this season," remarked Mr. Ross, as he pointed to numerous miniature fruits just forming.

"I handle the pomegranate in the same way," continued Mr. Ross. "The wood is soft like basswood and can be bent down readily when covering for winter protection.

"Sweet potatoes are also grown, as you will see by these vines. The young plants are secured from the south and set out in my garden when about five inches high. The potatoes are larger and whiter than the ones we buy in the stores and the flesh is firm and very white.

"Peanuts are easily grown. I plant the nuts in sandy soil. As the plants grow yellow blossoms appear low down on the stem. I pull the earth up around them