

Clean them thoroughly and assort them into sizes, removing any little offsets, which may be treated separately by growing on for flowering size later. The cleaned, selected bulbs can be replanted in exactly the same way as the new stock imported from Holland. The small offsets should be planted in rows and treated exactly like the larger bulbs, and in time they will attain flowering size. Narcissus bulbs are best left alone for three or four years, and then, when they are disturbed, should be lifted in August and replanted as soon as possible. They can be held out longer, but a great deal in vigor is gained by early planting.

Bulbs that are planted in the lawn can be lifted in exactly the same way for replanting, if it is thought that the foliage will become unsightly during the summer, or they may be allowed to remain where they are, provided the lawn is not cut over so that the foliage is removed before there are signs of ripening. It is perfectly practical, if the room is wanted earlier, to lift the bulbs soon after flowering, heeling them in lightly to ripen in a shaded place in the garden. The one principle in bulb-growing and the only thing to be remembered is that the bulb cannot produce flowers next year unless it is allowed to grow naturally this season and mature its full growth before any attempt is made to dry it off and store it.

Forced bulbs that have been taken out from pots or flats and put into the garden border after flowering can be depended upon to recover if left alone, and the second year from forcing can be handled in exactly the same way as the other bulbs.

For storing, the best arrangement is to have the bulbs in shallow boxes or flats about two inches deep, with plenty of ventilation at the bottom, the boxes themselves being piled one on top of the other, but separated by supporting pieces so that the air can circulate freely at all times. In sorting out the bulbs for re-planting, remember that the best bulbs are the heaviest in comparison to their size—not necessarily the largest. A healthy bulb can be recognized very quickly by the dry, clean, glowing appearance of the outer skin.

Nasturtiums Easy to Grow

THE two chief groups among nasturtiums are those in which the plants are of small, compact, bushy growth, and those which throw out long running branches. The dwarf or bush type, which is commonly known as the Tom Thumb, makes a neat, rounded bush about ten inches high with comparatively small leaves, and in the older varieties the flowers are relatively small; but in the newer introductions the flowers come much larger in size and with broader and more fully rounded petals, which, by overlapping at their outer edges, make a broad or bold-faced flower that is distinctly showier than the smaller and more open flower of the older types.

The dwarf type of nasturtium is most desirable for edging flower beds and garden walks, as it makes a close, neat row of low, rounded growth, relieved by the profusion of highly colored flowers. It is also useful when the space is very limited but comes bushy only in well-drained soil or in a raised bed in the full sunlight, for if planted in low, wet ground or in partial shade there will be a very dense growth of leaves and stalks which is apt to blight and rot off during wet weather.

The tall or running varieties are the most generally grown. For pot culture, hanging-baskets, vases, boxes on the porch or lawn, or for window boxes, they are by far the most satisfactory type. They are also best for planting along the fences, walls, etc., or for a long border where there is ample room for the branches to spread as they increase in growth. Also they are most desirable for growing in solid beds or masses, as the long shoots or runners interlace and mingle freely over the entire bed or border, and will not rot off in wet weather as the very compact bush plants do. In any case they must have plenty of light and air. If planted in a shady place they will make long, slender runners and very few flowers.

One of the best plans for growing the running nasturtiums in a small garden is to plant them in a long row like peas and provide brush or poultry-wire netting for their support. Treated in this way they will come into flower earlier and blossom more profusely than they will if left to run at will on the ground. If a narrow border or bed is dug along the bottom of a paling or light ornamental iron fence, the shoots will climb

and twist through the fence, with very little assistance in starting the early shoots in the proper direction, and make a most pleasing and ornamental effect.

When planted in pots a slender stake should be provided and the shoots carefully trained or tied at intervals to this support, but for baskets, vases, boxes, etc., the runners should be allowed to hang over the edges and to grow at will as trailing vines. This effect is more readily obtained if the seeds are planted or the young plants set around the outer edges of the boxes or vases in which they are planted, using taller erect-growing plants, like geraniums, etc., for the middle portion.

Among the running nasturtiums, the ordinary type is the strongest grower, and has the largest leaves, while the newer varieties have the largest flowers. The Lobbianum type is more compact in growth, with shorter and thicker and much darker and richer colorings in both the foliage and flowers, but the flowers are not as large nor as widely expanded as in the older type.

In the new ivy-leaved type there is considerable variation in the foliage, some kinds having the leaves more distinctly lobed or serrated than others, but the shoots are always more slender and vine-like than in the common running nasturtiums, while the flowers are of open form, the slender petals standing well apart from each other, and are distinctly toothed or serrated at the outer edges.

The most distinct type among the running nasturtiums is the old *Tropaeolum minus*, which makes long, slender, vine-like runners with small, smoothly-rounded leaves which are thickly set with small, bright flowers. This type is not as well adapted for long rows or masses as the larger-flowered kinds, but is especially pretty and graceful for hanging-baskets and vases or for trailing over rock work and other broken surfaces.

Many ordinary flower gardeners will of course prefer to plant everything in separate varieties and colors, but to my mind the general effect of the mixtures of the newer large-flowered varieties as offered by seedsmen is more showy and pleasing than a bed or row of a single color. The regular mixtures as offered in the seed catalogues run largely to solid colors, but include also varieties having small spots of contrasting color at the base of the lower petals and delicate lines in the throat of the two upper petals, so that for the richest and most varied effect in colors I would recommend the choosing of the special mixtures such as the Hotspur Harlequin, which has the red-spurred flowers, French Chameleon, Caprice, and Coquette. These selections comprise colors ranging from pale primrose or cream to deep golden tints, but are more or less overlaid by marbled shadings of bright red, scarlet, and soft rosy tints. They are bright and showy throughout the summer, but when cool weather comes in the fall they become still more varied, as the brilliant markings then deepen in tint and cover a much larger portion of the petals. These fall shadings are beautiful beyond description, and have been the cause of despair among flower lovers who have sought to fix these grand autumn tints by saving the seed from some especially fine flower. Such selections result in a more diverse coloring, but the most gorgeous tints and markings can be had only when the nights become cool in the fall.

The planting of the seed is one of the simplest garden operations. Dig the soil early in the spring, making a fine, loose surface as you would for other flowers, then open a shallow trench or drill one to two inches deep and scatter the seed thinly along the bottom. Another and better plan for a small quantity of seed is to push the finger or a small stick into the soil about two inches deep and drop a single seed in each hole, making a separate hole where each plant is to grow. In either case cover the seed with fine soil, pressing it firmly on the seed so that it may come into close contact with all the corrugations that compose the shell or outer covering of the seed. This firming of the soil is necessary to insure good germination; otherwise the seed is liable to rot in the ground. If the young plants come up too quickly in the row or if it is desired to give them an early start in a special seed-bed, they can readily be transplanted to another bed or location when three to four inches high and when they show two to four true leaves. Any further thinning that may become necessary can be done at any time during the summer until the vines or runners become interlaced or tangled together.

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