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THE HOME GARDEN

Red Flowers For New Year's



VERYBODY demands red flowers for VERYBODY demands red flowers for New Year's—gorgeous, glowing red, because it is the cheeriest color. Red flowers seem to radiate a positive warmth that makes them doubly welcome at this season, for not only do they typify good-will to all men, but, by their sharp contrast with the outdoors, add to the comfort inside. And there is a deal more in the influence of color than some of us think.

The Two Favorite Cut Flowers Because of its fragrance and because of its sturdy growth, the American Beauty rose still stands highest in popular esteem, but not every one can afford a bunch of these roses. It is not so long ago that Meteor was the only dark red rose of this season, but it gave place to Liberty which was perhaps a little easier for the majority to grow; and this year, the new American rose, Richmond, will be the leader in the big cities because it has the advantage of lasting better.

The most satisfactory cut flowers for most people on New Year's are red carnations, because they last longer and cost less than roses. They lend themselves easily to decorative purposes, and the colors of the red ones are more fiery, too. Of the newer bright red varieties that are most popular this year, Beacon is the leader, and has won its place largely on account of its behavior in the greenhouse. Color and fragrance are qualities that captivate the public, but the grower looks also into questions of constitution, freedom of bloom, rigidity of stem, etc. All these are so balanced in the variety Beacon that it is at the present time a commercial favorite. It has been given us by Peter Fisher, whose Mrs. T. W. Lawson marked a new era in carnation standards.

A variegated carnation, having red splashed on The most satisfactory cut flowers for most people

marked a new era in carnation standards.

A variegated carnation, having red splashed on white, is welcome as a foil to the other flowers and is still in keeping. Really worthy varieties of this type are few. The variety Mrs. G. M. Bradt has held the lead for several years, but in its turn is being supplanted by the beautiful Mrs. Patten, of large size and having the red splashings of a lighter, more pleasing hue.

The Reddest Flower of All Potted plants in flower are preferable to cut flowers because they last longer and many of them can be kept over until next Christmas. The brightest red color is seen in the poinsettia,, but its endurance is short once it is taken away from hothouse condi-

The Most Profuse of Flowers For the greatest profusion of flower, the Glore de Lorraine begonia is the best plant, but the flowers are pink, not red, yet they have sufficient suggestion of warmth to make them acceptable. But it is chiefly because of their extraordinary profusion that they have become have become so popular. The plant will thrive in an ordinary living-room, remaining in flower for weeks. Cut it down after the flowers fade and encourage a new growth to develop.

The Cheapest Flowering Plant The most easily grown and the cheapest flowering plant of the season is the geranium. Anybody can keep it growing after the flowers have faded and can confidently count upon a succession of flower heads until the weather becomes warm enough to set the plant outdoors.

The geranium is one of the best subjects for the perinner in gerdening to plant with the plant outdoors.

pleasure can be derived from raising new plants from cuttings. These are made from the ends of the shoots, and taking them off will make the parent plant more stocky. The removed shoots can be put into any light, well drained soil and are almost sure to 'strike" and make roots

'strike" and make roots. In the more modern kinds, the individual flowers are often about two inches across, but the best New! Year's colors are still found in some of the older fa-

Amateurs who want to have their geraniums in flower on New Year's must start the plants into growth early in the summer, not letting them flower

The Best Primrose The Chinese primrose, with its truss of bright flowers nestling snugly in a rosette of handsome fol-iage, is eminently well-fitted for a centre-piece for the breakfast table. It will thrive in a fairly cool room, and as a window plant when it does not get either chilled or dry. I have seen it flourish for a whole year, throwing up a succession of flowers and increasing greatly in size. But a sudden change of

air is certain to injure the plant The Best Potted Rose The Baby Rambler rose never fails to please be-cause it is forever in bloom. Indoors and outdoors, summer and winter, this energetic little thing may be seen in flower. Its color is not of the brightest, but its lavishness of bloom would compensate for much.

A New Year's Cactus The most gorgeous red of any flower of the season comes to us in the crab cactus. The popular name comes from the fact that the plant has a peculiar drooping habit and the long flowers borne on the conds of the breaches conditions. nds of the branches are likened to the claws of

The Only Red-Flowered Bulb

The only red-flowered Dutch bulb that can be reed thus early is one of the Duc van Thol tulips. is cannot well be grown by the amateur for New Year's without a greenhouse, but it is always seen in quantity, both cut and in pots or pans at the florist's. A very pretty decoration is made by arranging four tulips in a six-inch pot with a small fern in the centulips in a six-inch pot with a small tern in the centre. Sometimes forced pips of illy-of-the-valley are arranged with the tulips. It is hardly worth while to have the bulbs for another year, but if one really wants to it can be done easily. Keep the bulb grow-the follows have the follows and when the follows Ing after the flower has fallen, and when the foliage is properly ripened, plant the bulbs outdoors after all frost is past and leave them alone to flower the folowing spring, or they may be stored indoors like other bulbs and set out in the fall.—Leonard Barron, in Garden Magazine.

The Edible Passion-Flower (Passiflora Edulis)

We have heard much lately of the edible Passion-flower, which has been imported from abroad; but this luscious and wholesome fruit, a delicious accom-paniment to the breakfast table, has long been known paniment to the breakfast table, has long been known and grown in English gardens. Fifteen years ago we first tried the fruit, and only wish that means would enable one to grow it largely. We well remember a large houseful of it in the gardens at Tan-y-Bwlch in North Wales, the fruit being much appreciated there. It may be interesting to give a few cultural details, in the hope that those who have sufficient space may add the Passion-flower to the Grapes, Peaches, Nectarines and other fruits which are to be found in all well-appointed gardens. The gardener who has charge well-appointed gardens. The gardener who has charge of those beautiful hillside gardens at Tan-y-Bwlch in the Vale of Festiniog wrote to a contemporary some years ago an account of the way in which Passiflora edulis should be grown. He mentioned that the plant is so much grown as a climber for lofty conservatories and similar structures that it is difficult to ascribe a reason for its comparative neglect as a fruit-producing plant. Such it certainly is, and of a very high order, too, bearing enormous crops of fruits which are

age and bloom in abundance will result. These conditions must be somewhat modified to ensure fruitfulness as well. Reasonable confinement of the roots and fertilizing of the flowers are imperative, and, if planted in sunny positions, slight shade is beneficial, especially while the plants are in bloom. It is necessary to check over-luxuriance and to artificially fertilize the flowers, for, unless this is done, the probability is that no first would set. tilize the flowers, for, unless this is done, the probability is that no fruit would set. Guard against bright sunshine before setting the flowers, as well as to shield the young and tender embryo fruits from the fierce rays of the sun. As far as this grower knows, there is no special mode of pruning; merely thin and shorten the shoots according to the space available, and avoid crowding. The summer routine will consist in pinching the shoots when two, three or more fruits are set, according to the strength of the shoots and the crop intended. Cut well back any that do not

Hon. Vicary Gibbs, in a lecture some time ago before the Royal Horticultural Society, mentioned that "What is really wanted to show autumn or winter What is really wanted to show autumn or winter coloring to full advantage is that the planting should be in groups and masses of the same species; and though this can be more completely carried out in large places, yet it can be done much more than it is at present in gardens of every size. It is only of late years that it has been realized that roses and herbaceous plants look far better when the same variety is massed together, and before long gardeners will recognize the advantage of treating shrubs in the same nize the advantage of treating shrubs in the same fashion, so as to develop the full beauty, whether of their flowers, foliage or wood." We believe that to obtain the richest colors the soil should not be manurod too heavily. One often sees the Vines cramped in a pot put on the finest tints, whereas those on a wall may be far less brilliant. Among the kinds enumerated by Mr. Gibbs for their autumn colors are Pyrus abutifolia, also called Aronia floribunda, the Jeaves turning to a clear red and remaining so from ten days to a fortnight, according to the weather. Mr. Gibbs

tiful of all the dwarfer shrubs, its leaves changing to fiery scarlet. Berberis Aquifolium, Ghent Azaleas the American Vaccinium (V. corymbosum), native Guelder Rose, common Hazel, Rhamnus Frangula, Spirea Thunbergi, Disanthus cercidifolia, Viburnum alnifolium, Fothergilla alnifolia, Euonymus alatus, Deutzia crenata, Pyrus arbutifolia and the Brambles. The richest-leaved climbers in autumn are: Veitch's Ampelopsis, or Virginian Creeper, the big-leaved Vine (Vitis Coignetiae), the Teinturier Vine, and we must not omit to mention the Virginian-Creeper called muralis, which clings more tightly to the wall than Veitch's, and a sort called Engelmanni, All the kinds enumerated may be planted within the next few weeks; as we mentioned lately, the places should be prepared a week beforehand to prevent the roots suffering from exposure to the air.

Random Notes

Phlox Etna.—"H. J." writes from Ely: "Allow me to commend to the notice of your readers, Phlox Etna, which I am pleased to see you mention in your notes

with the Crocuses, too, are much neglected in English gardens. This is to be regretted, Colchicums bringing as much beauty to the woodland, border or bed as the bulbous flowers of the spring months. C. speciosum should be planted in the rock garden, too, where its light purple flowers add a note of much-neded color at this season. We like to see the flowers springing from a mat of Arenaria or Saxifrage, as this covering prevents the soil, in the event of a heavy rain, splashing the bloom, the leaves not appearing until spring. Crocus speciosus is one of the richest of all autumn flowers; it should be planted in thousands, the intensely blue petals opening wide to the autumn sun and disclosing a stigmata of brilliant orange.—Country Life.

A Side Profit From Geraniums

Last spring I sold a lot of geraniums for ten cents a piece or one dollar per dozen. These plants were grown from cuttings and were wintered in a hotbed. They were larger than the plants that could be hought from the mainthighner green the week.

hotbed. They were larger than the plants that could be bought from the neighboring greenhouses, were better able to stand cold and could be planted out earlier and were so vigorous that had I cared to, I could have sold the entire stock.

After saving all I could use in my own garden I sold enough to more than pay for the slight trouble of caring for the slips during the winter. Last winter was mild, but even in a cold winter the plants are much better when growing in the hotbed than in the average house.

Just before the first frost comes I prepare a hot-

Just before the first frost comes I prepare a hotbed in which to grow my geraniums for next sum-mer's flower garden. I make the hotbed 3x9ft. The soil is removed to a depth of eighteen inches, which is deep enough in this climate.

Equal quantities of fresh horse manure and leaves are mixed together and put in a shed where they will be protected from the weather, and tramped down to allow of fermentation. After three days the pile is thoroughly stirred with a fork and again al-

lowed to remain undisturbed for two or three days, when it is ready to be made into a hotbed.

A depth of twelve inches is filled in and thoroughly tramped down. A wooden frame eighteen inches high in the back and twelve in front, sloping toward the south to catch the sunshine, is placed over the hed

A length of old matting is now put over the A length of old matting is now put over the frame and the bed is allowed to stand two or three days until the manure reaches a temperature of about 90 degrees. Then six inches of light mellow soil is placed over the manure and all geranium plants are taken from the flower garden, made into cuttings and planted in the hotbed as close together as they will stand. I usually get about three hundred in my 3x9 bed.

I cover the beds with the matting to protect the cuttings from frost at night, leaving it on during the day if there is danger of freezing. Of course the weight of the matting must not fall upon the plants, and it must be securely fastened all along the edges so no breeze can lift it and allow a draft to blow on the plants.

on the plants.

When the really cold weather comes the matting is replaced by hotbed sashes and the usual care in regulating hotbeds given. The matting is covering enough in this climate for most of the winter and makes the plants less.

Last winter, having need of all sashes on other

Last winter, having need of all sashes on other beds, I used only the matting covering with a rubber blanket on top during hard freezes. In February the weather bureau warned us that there would be a few days of intense cold. Taking a barrel of leaves I filled the hotbed until the tops of the plants were well covered, replaced the matting, but not the rubber blanket. At the end of the cold spell the leaves were removed, and although many plants in pits and in houses were frozen, my geraniums came through in perfect condition.

I always have sufficient leaves for such emeralways have sufficient leaves for such emergencies because a great many, raked up from our lawns in the fall, are put in burlap sacks or barrels and stored in the woodshed for use in hotbeds, covering plants, and putting under melon and cucumber vines in the spring.—M. C. Wood.

Orchard Fertilizers

Problems relating to the fertilization of fruit lands are very local and depend upon the physical conditions of the soil and the amount of available plant food which it contains. Generally speaking fruits require large quantities of potash to bring them to their highest state of development, but liberal supplies of other plant foods are also essential.

The only way of determining what is necessary is to intelligently study the behavior of the trees and

the only way of determining was to intelligently study the behavior of the trees and be governed thereby. A series of experiments in which different combinations and different quantities plant foods are used is always of great assistance or plant loous are used is always of great assistances in determining upon an economical use of fertilizers. In fact such a line of experiments is the only way of getting delnite data upon the subject.

The fact needs emphasis, however, that the pro-

duction of heavy crops of fruit is a severe drain up-on the fertility of the soil and unless some means are resorted to for the purpose of maintaining it, soil ex-haustion will sooner or later follow, resulting in un-

productive orchards.

The economical use of fertilizers is based on the natural producing capacity of the soil. It follows then from this that a combination of plant foods which is suited to a particular orchard is not neces-sarily suited to any other. In fact it would not be unless the conditions of soil fertility were the same. Such a series of experiments as suggested above ould reveal in the best way possible what these conditions are, thereby making an economical use of fer-

tilizer possible.

The use of cover crops in connection with the growing of fruits is closely allied to the fertilizer, problem, inasmuch as they are both fundamental factors in soil fertility.

The producing capacity of the soil is as much development of the soil is as much development.

nendent upon its physical condition as it is upon the ount of plant food it may contain. The chief factor governing the physical condition of the soil is the amount of humus or decaying vegetable matter it contains. It is in this connection that cover crops may be made to serve so important

Cover crops are of two classes: Legumes which have the power of gathering nitrogen from the air, so that when they are ploughed under and decay the soil is actually richer in nitrogen than it was before and the non-nitrogen gathering plants which when they become incorporated with the soil leave it little richer in plant food than it was before, though the presence of the decaying vegetable matter thus added to the soil improves its physical condition and makes it more productive.

Of the leguminous cover crops the various kinds Of the leguminous cover crops the various kinds of clovers are perhaps of greatest value, though the question of value is somewhat dependent upon location and other conditions. Other crops of this class frequently used for the purpose in question are vetches, field peas, etc. Rye, buckwheat, rape and the like are the more common non-leguminous plants. Other things being equal the best time to sow the cover crop is at the last cultivation of the orchard for the season—at about the middle of luly-collegers.

for the season—at about the middle of July—allowing it to remain upon the ground until the first working of the soil the following spring. Various factors, however, will influence the details of management. If in the judgment of the grower the soil needs more nitrogen one of the leguminous crops should be sown. If only the maintenace of the humus is ne-cessary, together with the protection of the soil during winter then one of the non-lemumin will serve the purpose.-The Farming World.

In the "Garden of Weld," near the pergola, where stately hollyhocks repeat the vertical lines of the pergola, the entrance gate and the bay trees fruit, which will, if early in the season, probably refruit, which will, if early in the season, probably result in fruitful breaks and a crop later. Give water sparingly until a good set is secured, when copious supplies of both clear and liquid manure will assist in swelling up a heavy crop. A sprinkling of some fertilizer may be added occasionally; in fact, "feed" liberally but judiciously. Thrips is the only insect pest which habitually affects the plant, and for this pest fumigation is the best remedy. Propagation is easy, either from seeds or cuttings.

Autumn Colors The planter of trees who wishes to make his woodland or his shrubberies as beautiful as possible the year through should visit some botanic garden, such as Kew, or a well-known tree nursery, at least twice—in early May, when a host of kinds are in bloom, and in autumn, when the leaf coloring is still undimmed. At the time of writing the leaves are changing; a tinge of yellow is seen on the Beeches, and the Virtinge of yellow is seen on the Beeches, and the Virginian creepers are scarlet and gold, but the mysterious transformation is not fully accomplished. The
conditions which produce the richest splendor in autumn are generally a wet summer followed by a
warm, dry September, and therefore we anticipate a
glorious flood of color within the next few weeks.
Certain trees and shrubs require exactly the reverse,
and therefore the general rule in this, as in most other
things, has many exceptions. When planting reand therefore the general rule in things, has many exceptions. When planting, rethings, has many exceptions. The

places great faith in cutting down certain plants to the ground-line in spring, when the sap is rising and the first leaves peep out. He alludes to Stag-horned Sumach (Rhus typhina), which is one of the most effective masses of autumn coloring when a lot of suckers or young plants are procured and treated in the way indicated. "The ordinary sticky, leggy ap-pearance of the plant is avoided, and by summer-time you have a dense, level sheet of tropical-looking foliage, 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. high, which attracts universal attention in September by the brilliance of its red and orange tints." We have carefully compiled the following list of trees and shrubs remarkable for the richness of their autumn tints: The American Reduck (Courses accepted) richness of their autumn tints: The American Red-Oak (Quercas coccinea), of which the best variety is splendens—the color is retained even to Christmas; the Tupelo tree (Nyssa sylvataca), the Hickory (Carya tomentosa), Elm, Liquidambar styraciflua, Honey Locust (Gleditschia triacanthos), Tulip tree (Liriodendron), Nettle trees (Celtis), the Zelkówas, that most beautiful of all Birches for color, Betula corylifolia, Horse-chestnut, Wild Cherry, Japanese Maples, Mandschurian Maple (Acer Ginnala), Norway Maple, the snowy Mespilus (Amelanchier canadensis) Koelthe snowy Mespilus (Amelanchier canadensis). Koelreuteria japonica, Pyrus terminalis, Cladrastis tinc-toria, Parriotia persica and the common Beech. Of shrubs, the Sumach, previously mentioned, is a mass of color, the most brilliant of all Rhus Toxicodendron, the Poison Ivy, which is perhaps as well out of the garden as in it; Berberis Thunbergi, the most beau-

A CORNER IN ONE OF THE BEST FORMAL GARDENS IN AMERICA

on the herbaceous Phloxes. The color of the flowers is superb, a rich scarlet, and does not fade quickly under the influence of hot suns. A mass of it has been very beautiful with me, the cool, moist summer having thoroughly agreed with all the Phloxes."

A Shrub for Shade—Rubus odoratus is mentioned in a contemporary as an excellent shrub for chedu. in a contemporary as an excellent shrub for shady places. This is a sadly-neglected shrub which might be profitably cultivated "in some of the shadler spots, such as under trees. There its handsome, vine-like leaves and rosy purple flowers will be appreciated, especially as they appear over a long period, from May until August, at least. One point worth noticing in connection with the flowers is that they soon lose their brilliant coloring if planted in the sun, the rosy purple fading rapidly to a rather dingy white. This purple fading rapidly to a rather dingy white. This points to the desirability of planting it, as suggested, in the shade; and in its native countries, the Northern United States and Canada, it grows naturally in rocky woods. It varies much in height, and may be found from 3 ft. or 4 ft. to 8 ft. high in this country. It requires little attention, but a thinning out of the old

quires little attention, but a thinning out of the old wood in winter or early spring is advisable. Although inferior to the beautiful R. delicosus in some respects, the coloring of the sweet Virginian Raspberry, as it is called, is very bright and its fragrance strong. The fruit can scarcely be called edible. Colchicum speciosum—A sprinkling of this beautiful autumn-flowering bulb on the fringe of woodland reminded us that this and others of the same family,