



A lesson in shrub grouping on the lawn at Casa Loma.

A Vegetable Garden Beautiful

The Blending of Beauty and Utility in the Form of Flower and Vegetable

By E. T. COOK

DURING the past spring a series of articles has been published dealing with forms of gardening that are more commonly adopted outside the Dominion, but in time will have engrafted themselves into the decorative art of the landscape artist in this country. The strong point that has been insisted upon is the simplicity of it all, but a question was asked: "Oh, why tell of rock and water gardens, of ravines over-run with flowers, of shubberies and this and that? All is impossible." We have no conception of what this means, but it is to be hoped the illustrations that have gone with the notes have had some teaching value. We now take one of the simplest of all plans in garden design—that of making the vegetable or kitchen garden, call it what you will—beautiful. Interesting it always is, or should be. The writer has endeavoured for some time past to lay great stress upon the need of a vegetable garden which provides the most wholesome of food—peas, beans, corn and other nutritious esculents for the household, food as important in the dietary of mankind as the flesh of animals. But the vegetable has yet to play the strong part in the economy of the kitchen, it is served up even in high places, where one would expect things more complete, in unappetizing ways, and its position in the garden is menial.

THE illustrations taken in Sir Henry Pellatt's well-equipped garden, at Casa Loma, Toronto, show that whilst the vegetable garden is filled with a wonderful choice grown in the best ways, it is also beautiful. A plantation of cabbage, potatoes or some other vegetable has to some a certain distinction, but it scarcely appeals to the lover of the beautiful as something to paint, something to fill the artistic soul with transcendent joy. Rather it has affinity to the stable and outhouse. This the illustrations refute, and the lessons they convey should result in not only a more widespread interest in the culture of vegetables, but in surrounding their prosaic nature with flowers. This is very simple. Generally the vegetable garden is square, but no matter what the shape may be, it is divided into sections, each vegetable having the allotted portion of soil that most befits the kind chosen, and by the paths run borders of hardy annual and biennial flowers from which gatherings may be made for the home, thus avoiding disturbance of the immediate surroundings of the house, where colour and scent are sought for whilst summer lasts. These "reserve" borders—for such we may call them—are the gardener's storehouse of beauty, and schemes of colour need not enter into the year's work—the plants are there for the purpose of giving plentifully to supply the home and to friends. The borders should be filled with plants that are most denied in the home—long-spurred Columbines (Aquilegias), the fairest of flowers for the decoration of the table; Larkspurs, that give noble spikes in varying shades of blue, for tall vases; Peonies, to group in large bowls; Coreopsis grandiflora, with graceful stems of yellow blossom; Cosmea, or Cosmos, the late-blooming annual of fairy gracefulness; blue Cornflower, Sweet Peas, Forget-Me-Nots, Flag Irises, the Cloud plant, Gypsophila paniculata, as it is popularly described; Lupines, in blue, rose and white colourings; Pyrethrums, and annual Salpiglossis and Scabious—just a few flowers that are in the best sense decorative and offer few cultural difficulties. No attempt should be made to make a flower garden or to introduce shrubs, simply borders to soften the flat, conventional outline of a piece of ground set apart for the growth of esculents. Between the groups of perennials may be introduced a few of the finer Darwin Tulips for colour, and no flower of spring-

time seems more welcome for gathering. Those that give the most pleasure are Orange King, Moonlight, Gesneriana spathulata, Royal Crown, Golden Bronze, Inglescombe Pink, Inglescombe Yellow, Clara Butt, Loveliness, la Tulipe Noire, Carminea, Edouard Andre, Glow, Farncombe Sanders, Rev. H. Ewbank, Salmon King, The Sultan, Bouton d'Or, Dom Pedro, Fulgens, Golden Crown, Macrospika, Picotee, and The Fawn, which have this advantage, they last longer than flowers in general when gathered, remaining fresh frequently for over a week. Before the fall think out the ways of bringing garden beauty to the vegetable garden and the smallest plot may be considered. The writer was in a small garden recently given over chiefly to vegetables and the walk was lined on either side with the Flag Iris in many lovely variations. This was an instance of getting full value for the space at disposal, and the line of flowers was a little picture of colour with something for the kitchen behind it.

All Sorts of Lilies

SELDOM it is that the true Lily is described in our journals, though many flower lovers attempt their culture with varying success. By "true Lily" is meant the big, scented Auratum, the pure white flower of the Madonna, candidum, and others of equal fascination. An enthusiastic amateur wrote to the writer that he made a practice of trying one kind every year, beginning the first year with the four hardy lilies known generally for their beauty and constancy—L. candidum, already mentioned; Tiger Lily, L. tigrinum and its well-named form splendens, and L. croceum, which is called the Orange Lily the world over. These are considered safe, but the splendid Auratum has a life of only about three years. Two years ago the beautiful orange-yellow, L. Henryi, was planted, and so far has given the greatest satisfaction. The exhibit which secured first prize at a show of the Toronto Horticultural Society was greatly admired, and the spikes grew to a height of five feet, their grace and colouring enhanced by the Roses, Frau Karl Druschki and Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford in association. Nineteen

lilies were tried, and of these the following are strongly commended, Tenuifolium, a lily only 18 inches high, bright scarlet in colour and the earliest to flower; Wallacei, a large flower, orange-scarlet, spotted with maroon; candidum, speciosum rubrum, rosy white, spotted with crimson; and tigrinum, which, let it be noted, my correspondent says, will "grow under almost all conditions." I saw some last summer, and the proud owner explained to me that they were 30 years old. They certainly looked exquisite, between two clumps of pale blue Delphiniums. Next is croceum, and then Henryi, which needs some shade, the flowers having a tendency to fade in full sun. A few practical observations are summed up. Give a rich sandy and loamy soil, and as Lilies are averse to wet feet, a 3-inch drain tile has been put down the full length of the garden in front of the Roses and Lilies and about twelve inches deep. The Lilies are planted the same as one would May-flowering Tulips, that is, according to size—but none less than six inches deep. Put in three or four inches of sharp building sand, and after placing the bulb, then a sprinkling of more sand mixed with sandy loam, on and around the bulbs. Manure should not come into contact with them, and though Lilies are rarely attacked by insect pests, they are frequently afflicted with fungoid diseases. A Lily, for instance, will sometimes die away suddenly and without apparent cause, the whole plant in time collapsing. If the bulbs are examined they may be found faultless, one explanation of the disease being, a weakening of the constitution of the Lily through a severe winter, and over-manuring. Auratum is the most quickly affected. An excellent preventive is a thick sprinkling of powdered sulphur on the bulbs before they are planted.

Flag Iris—Plant Now

A DISTINCTIVE liking that the lovely Iris, or "Flag," has, is to be lifted, when the growth is matted or an increase of stock is desired, transplanting elsewhere immediately after flowering. This note is therefore seasonal, and the work takes place when there is time for its proper carrying out. In various ways this noble flower may be used, by waterside, to line a border, in groups in shade, and the reserve garden, from which the tall, highly-decorative spikes may be gathered for vases in the house. The colours are beautiful in their many subtle and "artistic" shades, and a sweet perfume floats from the broad petals. There is, however, too much sameness in our collections, and orange and brown prevail, but the Flag family contains kinds that are the finest of all perennials, and these occur to mind, Kharput, velvety-purple; Mrs. G. Darwin, lilac and white; pallida Princess Beatrice, a lovely flower, lavender shades; pallida, which should be the first chosen; Madame Chereau, a great favourite, white feathered with blue; gracchus, crimson and white; and Maori King, golden yellow and maroon. It is only necessary to divide the clumps with a spade, and not to plant deep, about three inches. This class of Iris does not like much soil over the roots.

Refrigerating Flowers

COMMERCIAL flower growers in Canada will be interested to know that at Nice, in France, a new refrigerating hall has just been constructed in which the temperature can be lowered to two degrees above zero. Cut flowers are deposited in this hall as soon as they are gathered, where they retain all their freshness, colour, and perfume for four weeks, in the case of certain kinds for even six weeks. As they are required, the flowers are taken from the store, packed, loaded on refrigerator waggons, and sent abroad. This method goes far to solve the problem of meeting the fluctuating demand of the flower market in the great centres.



Beauty and utility are combined in this flower border round the kitchen garden at Casa Loma.