

ments conducted a year ago that it would do this. As the lime appears to loosen the scales and the rain wash them off, the effect of the former will not be fully apparent until later in the season.

The work of top grafting the less hardy apples on hardy stocks which was begun last year will be continued next week. The stocks used are Haas, McMahon White, Gideon and Hiberna, as these are very hardy trees, having trunks which do not sunscald, as a rule. It is expected that good will come of this work, as, if the terminal growth does not kill back, those varieties which are subject to sunscald should succeed when grown in this way, provided the stocks are suitable. Northern Spy, which does not succeed when grown in the ordinary way, has been fruiting for several years now, top grafted on Wealthy and Duchess, but as these stocks are too slow growing for the Spy, the trees are becoming top heavy. We are also top grafting the best pears on the Russian varieties to see what the effect will be.

By the time this number of the Horticulturist appears some of the best early perennials will be in bloom or just coming into bloom. One of the earliest and finest of these is the Spreading Pasque Flower (*Anemone patens*), with its large, purple bell-shaped flowers. It begins to bloom at Ottawa in the fourth week of April, when its lovely flowers are very desirable for cutting, there being few other perennials in bloom at that time. Following this, during the first week of May, is the Ox-eye (*Adonis vernalis*), a little plant from six to nine inches in height, with large, lemon-yellow flowers and finely cut foliage. It is a very pretty and dainty plant, and while not very good for cutting, it is desirable on account of its earliness.

The Doronicums, which begin to bloom during the second and third weeks of May, are also fine. The flowers are large and yellow, and the plants from one to two feet in height. *Doronicum Caucasicum* and *Doronicum plantagineum excelsium* are two of the best; the former is earlier than the latter, but not quite so striking. The Epimediums or Barrenworts are little Japanese plants which begin to bloom during the second week of May, and which, for gracefulness and delicacy of color, are difficult to excel among early flowering plants. They are excellent for cutting, the flowers having long stems and the foliage, which is of a shade of green tinged with bronze, going well with them.

Among early flowering perennials, the old fashioned bleeding heart should not be omitted, as the plant is covered with showy flowers for a long time. Other good flowering perennials which bloom in May are the columbines, of which the best are *Aquilegia oxysepala*, *Aquilegia glandulosa*, *Aquilegia Stuarti*, *Aquilegia coerulea*, and *Aquilegia Canadensis*. These are all very beautiful. Then there are the white alyssum, *Arabis alpina*; prophet flower, *Arnebia echioides*; lily of the valley, *Convallaria majalis*; evergreen candytuft, *Iberis sempervirens*; iceland poppy, *Papaver nudicaule*; lovely phlox, *Phlox amoena*; creeping phlox, *Phlox reptans*; moss pink, *Phlox subulata*; creeping Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium reptans*; and the globe flowers, which are among the best of the early perennials. Of these *Trollius Europaeus*, *Trollius Ledebourii*, and *Trollius giganteus* are some of the best.

W. T. MACOUN,  
Horticulturist.

Central Experimental Farm,  
Ottawa.