



"It's everybody's business, in this world of ours, To root up all the weeds we find, To make room for the flowers; So that every little garden, no matter where it lies, May look like the one God made, And called it Paradise."

Flower Garden Talk.

The Long Border.

Except in a very small garden devoted entirely to bedding, flower-beds have been regarded as somewhat in bad taste of late years, their place having been taken by "borders," that is by long strips of flowers along walks, or fences, or on the edges of the lawn.

Needless to say a border must be a worth-while one, if it is to look worth the trouble. The plants must be luxurious, and their foliage should be as attractive as possible during the whole summer; roses, which are only attractive when in bloom, are very poor border shrubs, with the exception of the hardy hybrid perpetuals which are long bloomers.

The border may be of shrubs, planted irregularly, unless the situation seems to demand a straight line; or it may be of perennials alone, or perennials and annuals mixed. If of shrubs a good variety will be found in the following: Forsythia or golden bells (yellow) and Japonica (red and pink) for early bloom; weigelia (pink) and flowering almond to follow; then smoke bush, flowering currant, and honeysuckle bushes; with garden hydrangea for fall, and barberries and red-twigged dogwood for winter beauty.

If the border be of perennials and self-sowing biennials, which are practically perennial, choice will be found in this list: hollyhocks, foxgloves, perennial phlox in all colors, perennial larkspur, Russian sunflower, tiger lilies, June lilies, Oriental poppies, with all the bulbs for early blooming, and salvias and cosmos (both annual) for late fall. Speaking of late fall one must not forget the fall anemones, white and pink, most beautiful, perhaps, of all.

A border of annuals gives endless opportunity for variety in species—also for endless work, as annuals require much more coddling than perennials, that grow up year after year.

Whatever be chosen, the border should present an attractive appearance from spring until fall, and there should be flower surprises at all times, from the crocuses and scillas of early spring to the last scarlet dash of salvia in the late autumn. Always the tallest plants should be at the back of the border, or center if the border is exposed to view from both sides. If an edging is wanted it may be of feverfew, dusty miller or sweet alyssum, which is, perhaps the best of all. Study the color combinations, and use plenty of white to separate wherever there seems danger of a clash.

The Rock Garden.

As a rule rockeries and rock gardens are to be avoided, as, unless when well managed, they are likely to be hopeless failures, the plants scraggly and starved looking, and the rockwork wholly extraneous to its surroundings. But occasionally there is a garden-situation that is naturally so rocky that nothing but rock-gardening will do. Here rockwork borders may be built up to heart's desire, the only requisite being to remember that deep pockets of rich earth must be provided if the luxuriance of growth that is necessary is to be expected.

Vines are always delightful on stone-work, whether on stone fences or rockwork borders. Perennial peas are good, also the climbing bittersweets of the woods, including the species whose flowers resemble those of the potato plant

in form although purple in color, and are followed by clusters of bright, orange-red berries. Partridge vine and ferns (rock ferns) also cover well, while live-forever will thrive in the driest situations, and moss pink, rock cress, and alyssum in the pockets.

The Damp Spot Garden.

In many gardens there is a damp spot, which sometimes affords a problem. But it need not. Plants that will grow in any damp place in the woods or marshes will grow here—wild iris, turtle head, cardinal flower, blue vervain, gentian,

surprised at the variety you will have. In early spring there will be the hepaticas, little pink-striped "May-flowers" or "spring beauty," yellow dog's tooth violet with its brown mottled leaves, and snowy bloodroot. A little later, even so close as to overlap somewhat, will come the trilliums, white and red; Solomon's seal with its graceful drooping sprays; dainty white foam flower and bishop's cap; "twisted stalk" or bellwort with its pale, yellow drooping bells that look too shy to open up; and violets in all colors. Overlapping again will be the red columbine and the tiny pink wood's geranium,

they are found growing in the woods. You have no idea, unless you have already seen a wood-garden, what splendid effects may be achieved. One of the prettiest borders I have ever seen was made up of a solid mass of hepatica, behind which grew violets, then ferns mingled with dozens of varieties kidnapped from the woods and marshes and given protection at all seasons from browsing animals.

"But," you say, "how am I going to know these flowers? It is all very well to talk—but—"

To this the reply might be given that there are many books on the subject. One of the best for the home, also one of the cheapest in price (though not in quality) is published by Moffat, Yard & Co., Publishers, New York. Its name is "Who's Who Among the Wild Flowers," by Beecroft. It contains pictures of all the varieties described, also blank pages for notes and drawings, and costs only \$1.00. Its possession alone is sufficient to open a new world to those who are unacquainted with our wild flowers. A more elaborate book, which may also be highly recommended, is Alice Lounsberry's "A Guide to the Wild Flowers." It is beautifully illustrated in color—a perfect delight to own. The price may be obtained by writing to the publishers, Frederick A. Stokes Publishing Co., New York. Splendid pocket manuals on both birds and flowers are published by the Musson Book Co., Toronto.

The Old-Fashioned Garden.

Perhaps, when all has been said, there is no other kind of garden which appeals to as many people as the old-fashioned garden, the one that contains all the dear old blooms beloved by our grandmothers.

It will begin in spring with crocuses and daffodils—"daffydowndillies." Star of Bethlehem will be there too, bleeding hearts and Jacob's ladder, backed by tall hedges of lilacs, purple and white. Later in the season there will be sweet William hobnobbing with green leaves of sweet Mary, peonies—"piny roses"—Canterbury bells and foxgloves, little yellow bachelor's buttons and variegated cornflowers, marigolds in yellow and velvety brown, larkspurs growing with white June lilies, marvel of Peru and tall tiger lilies, not to speak of the sweet old cabbage roses and phlox in all colors.

Nor will the herb corner be forgotten, in which will grow horehound for cough candy, wormwood for liniments, with sweet-smelling thyme and lavender, summer savoy and sage for the Christmas goose.

Yes, it is a dear spot, this grandmother's garden, and well worthy the consideration of the flower-lover.

The Modern Garden.

If, however, one chooses to be very modern in gardens as in all other things, one may branch far out from this old-time spot, and all one needs to do to find the way is to send to some reliable firm for a seed catalogue. All growers nowadays make a specialty of novelties while keeping still a full selection of the old favorites. True, some of the swans exploited may be only geese, but as a rule species that are very highly praised are worth while; a reliable firm cannot afford to lose its reputation by recommending frauds. Speaking of the newer varieties—do you know the Darwin tulip? It is as much superior to the old stiff kind as the modern gladiolus is superior to the little old species from which the scientists have developed such wonders of form and color. And do you know the splendid single varieties of dahlias and peonies? They are very much prettier and more artistic than the old stiff, double kinds. So are the new Zinnias, richly gorgeous in coloring, superior to the old magenta horrors that some of us remember—and—but one scarcely knows where to stop. Study the catalogues.



A Rockwork Border—It is Covered with Vines.

ferns, orchids, meadow rue, with its feathery white bloom, even white-flowered arrowhead, if the soil be moist enough, to say nothing of blue violets by the thousand.

If you have a taste for exotics, even in the damp spot, then put in day lilies (white and yellow), lemon lilies, and a half dozen kinds of iris.

The Wild Flower Garden.

Perhaps there are tall trees about your garden, sturdy old trees that have cast

which also rejoices in the name "Herb Robert."

Later in the season the wild gardens may be gay with purple asters, scarlet bee-balm, clumps of golden rod, white boneset and its cousin the pinkish Joe Pye weed. All of these as well as the swamp flowers—blue gentian, golden ragwort, scarlet cardinal flower, pink moccasin flower, white anemones, and white meadow rue—grow best in a damp spot. Ferns may be found to suit any situation. Nor would one forget the wild vines,



Wild Flowers in the Home Garden—"Showy Lady's Slipper."

their leaves year after year until the soil has become black and rich like that of the woods. Then you have opportunities for a very interesting garden—that is if you love wild flowers, for the selection which we are about to suggest will not be showy.

Go up to the woods in spring and take up very carefully, so that plenty of earth adheres and the roots cannot dry out, basketfuls of the flowers that appeal to you. Plant them with loving care in your garden, adding to the collection as opportunity offers, and you will soon be

the bittersweets, wild grapes, and—prettiest of all—the wild clematis with its clusters of tiny white flowers, followed by the curious, silky tufted seeds which have given to the vine the quaint name "old man's beard," scarcely so poetical as the others by which it is sometimes known, "traveller's joy" and "virgin's bower."

There are many other flowers of the woods and swamps which will grow quite well in the shaded home garden, if a very simple rule be followed: Try to give all wild flowers the exact conditions in which