

In the Flower Garden

Flowers on the Lawn

A handsome rustic ornament can be made out of three wide boards, planed and made smooth, painted some good substantial color. Cherry, is now a very fashionable color, and will not fade or grow weather beaten. Take a couple of half barrels and paint the same color as the boards. Construct them into a rustic table, use the two half barrels for legs, choose some sunny little nook in front of the house on the lawn. Have on hand boxes as near the same size as you can get them enough to fill the table. Paint any tint or shade that suits your fancy. Straw color is very pretty. Fill with good fertile soil. Pot with any out-door flowers that please your fancy as long as they do not grow too tall and thrifty. Dwarf roses are very nice, as they bloom in clusters—variegated selections are my choice. Take a couple of half-barrels and paint them white, fill with good fertile soil. Pot with some climbing drooping vine. The running maple is just lovely for a lawn. It will grow and run downwards and droop and twine and wind around the barrels and the barrels will become one mantle of green with little white spots peeping through. When the flowers in the boxes become in full-bloom, and the half barrels draped and covered with a rich green color you have a picturesque bower of beauty that will feast your eyes and enhance and beautify the carpet of green that is spread over your lawn. The shade trees and the ornamental shrubbery almost express their exquisite delight in words.—Versalla E. Buchner, Norfolk Co.

Hints on Growing Flowers

Arrange for seedling pansy plants for early flowering from some reliable florist. Have them set so that you can put them out in the garden as soon as the soil can be put in proper shape in spring.

I would not advise starting dahlias now. We have heretofore considered it imperatively necessary that they should be given an early start, but two years ago I failed to receive my tubers until almost the first of June. I put them in the ground at once—they were well sprouted—in a very rich soil, and the plants grew with great rapidity, and began to bloom the last of July. Last season I tried the same method, with similar results. If a rich soil is given, and the plants are kept moving steadily and vigorously ahead, I believe late planting produces much better results than early planting.

Get your sweet-pea seed early, that you may have it by the time the ground is in condition to

warrant planting it. It is a good plan to order all your seed some time before you are ready to use it, thus avoiding the risk of not receiving it in time to take advantage of the season if it happens to be an early one.

Do not fail to order seed of such perennials as hollyhocks, pansy, and others as good, from which to grow plants for next year's use.—Home and Flowers.

A Few Good Plants

Centaura marguerite, or mammoth sweet Sultan, is causing a great furor among flower lovers, but many fail to have a succession of blossoms. To do this, it is necessary to keep every seed pod removed, as the plant is not strong enough to bloom and raise seed at the same time.

Purple fountain plant, lately introduced, is fine for a border plant around tall growing plants. Plants should be set far enough apart so their fountain-like form can be preserved. The feathery purple heads are freely produced from midsummer to frost.

Torenia is beautiful plants requiring a moist, rather cool situation, though they do well bedded out if water is plentifully given. They are from 6 to 12 inches tall and are in two distinct types, white and shades of blue. The latter is beautifully marked with purple and yellow, and the white is blotched with rose in the throat.

A House for Blue Birds

"It is a very simple matter to make a house for bluebirds that will be perfectly safe from cats and other animals," says Country Life in America.

It is a very simple matter. Get a hollow limb or make a box of weather-beaten boards, close both ends, raintight and make a two inch opening near the top. The cavity inside should be about three inches across and four or five inches deep. Nail or wire the box to a post set securely in the open where no squirrel or cat can jump down on it from above. Then stop everything from coming up the post by a sheet of tin or an old pan that encircles the post. This result is best accomplished by cutting an "X" in the tin and showing the post through; then nail down the flaps of the "X" to the post.

Young trees should not be trimmed too liberally, as too much foliage taken from the tree weakens its feeding power.

Hundreds of trees set every year die because of the neglect of the owners. It is not always the fault of the nurserymen.

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