

HARDY HYDRANGEAS.

The Alpine Auriculas are easily raised from seed, if a first class strain is procured one is sure to get some marvelously well-colored flowers ; about seven years ago we raised a batch of them and they grew well for the start, but we had to give them the protection of a cold frame to make them behave well during the winter, as the plants attained size we thought the game scarcely worth the candle, as they say, and planted them in the garden with the intention of letting them live or die as they chose. Their situation was, quite unintentionally, on the north side of a spruce hedge, just about three feet from the lower branches. They wintered there perfectly, and have done so ever since ; they show some good flowers and really fine colors.

Hardy pinks, among which the white

variety, Her Majesty, deserves special mention, are splendid for cutting ; they are always prime favorites in the small garden, as are the hardy Primrose or Polyanthus, including the English Primrose. In some places these latter will require the protection of a cold frame.

Alyssum saxatile compactum is a superb, dwarf, yellow flower, a veritable sheet of gold in its season.

The Iceland Poppies (*Papaver nudicaule*), in the various colors are much thought of. *Aubretia Græca* too, with its pretty purple flowers, deserves attention. *Arabis albidæ* is a neat, very early and showy white-flowered plant, without which no collection is complete.

WEBSTER BROS.

Hamilton, Ont.

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STANDING pre-eminently among the most noble shrubs for the lawn is the *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, introduced comparatively few years ago from Japan, it now beautifies the choicest gardens throughout America, and is grown for sale by the millions.

The snowy white or pinkish panicles of flowers which open in early September, are very lasting ; in fact, if cut before they begin to wither they last splendidly all winter.

Just how to obtain the largest and finest flower heads from this shrub is not generally understood. Left to itself the bush will make a large growth in two or three seasons, the growth will then not be so rapid or vigorous, the new wood will be short-jointed, and the flowers while they may appear in great numbers, will look the size of those on young, vigorous plants. It is possible to have

large, fine flowers from this variety for an almost indefinite time if the correct treatment is given. Hard pruning, after the style that Hybrid Perpetual Roses are pruned for finest flowers, should be adopted.

That is to say, instead of allowing all shoots to grow up, thin out, in the spring, all but the strongest, and shorten these to from six to eight inches from the ground, the result is large healthy foliage, and fewer flowers of greater size. A specimen bearing a few panicles, say 15 inches in length, will command attention where one left to itself may not. It seems hard to cut down the fine strong stems the following spring, but this sacrifice of good wood is the price of fine flowers.

The variety *Paniculata* has darker colored bark than the preceding, and its season is earlier, the panicles are borne more upright and are nearly pure white