

to designate such kinds of greenhouse plants as bloom well when planted out in beds, or have striking foliage whose colors take the place of flowers.

The geranium stands at the head of the list. No other "bedder" gives such a brilliant show of color, or keeps up such constant bloom throughout the season. All you have to do to keep a geranium blooming from June to frost is to remove the flowers as they fade and prevent the formation of seed. The double kinds are the most popular for bedding, as the flowers last longer and give a more solid color effect.

Tuberous begonias are becoming very popular for bedding purposes. They are rich in color and produce a fine effect.

Heliotrope is an excellent bedder, flowering very freely in rich soil. It will be found very useful to cut from.

The verbena is one of the best of all bedders, being a very free and constant bloomer, and having intensely rich and beautiful colors.

Among foliage plants, the most popular is the coleus. Very striking results can be brought about by its use. By planting it close together and keeping the plants cut in closely, solid effects of color can be obtained. The colors being so varied and distinct, it is much used in carpet-bedding in which a set pattern is worked out.

The achyranthes and alternanthera are brilliant little plants which bear cutting in and trimming well, and are therefore used in producing "pattern" effects.

The centaurea has a soft grey leaf which contrasts well with the coleus, and is used in connection with it. Golden feverfew is also used extensively for bedding purposes.

All the plants named, except achyranthes and alternanthera should be set out one foot apart. These should be six

inches apart. Rapid growers must be trimmed frequently to keep them from getting the start of such kinds as are of slower growth, in order to produce satisfactory results. In carpet-bedding you want a smooth, even surface in which all the colors have a chance to equally display themselves.

In putting out plants, choose a cloudy day, if possible; water them well and shade for a day or two.

Tropical Effects.

One of the best plants for producing a strong tropical effect on the lawn, or in the garden is the ricinus. It can be grown from seed. It has immense palmate foliage if a rich green, shaded with red, with a metallic luster when looked at in the sun. It grows to be eight or nine feet high, branching freely. It is excellent for the center of a circular bed.

Another plant with large and striking foliage is *Caladium esculentum*. It has leaves two feet or more across and four in length when grown in very rich soil, each leaf being produced on a stalk sent up from the tuber. Fine for grouping about the ricinus.

The canna is a noble plant, with large rich foliage ranging through various shades of green and bronzy-red. Some varieties are tall growers, while others are quite dwarf. In addition to its fine foliage it bears very brilliant flowers.

The *Musa ensete*, or Banana plant, has very large leaves and is excellent for the center of a circular bed.

There are many plants such as palms, pandanus or screw pine, ficus and others of similar habit which can be put out of doors in summer with advantage to the plants. These can be used in helping to produce tropical effects.

The striped maize—a variegated variety of corn—can be used with excellent