

then allowed to settle, makes an ideal liquid fertilizer for all pot or garden plants out of doors, if diluted with an equal quantity of water before using. Half a pint of the diluted solution once a week or so would be beneficial to the plants before the blossoms show. The

commercial fertilizers named are best for indoor use for sanitary reasons. Half an ounce of nitrate of soda dissolved in a gallon of water is a good substitute fertilizer. About half a pint of this once every week or ten days will benefit the plants.

the soil. The tops and the old dry black corms, under the corm to be planted, should be cleaned off just the same as with gladiolus before planting. The culture of the Montbretia is very similar to the culture of the gladiolus.

It is best to plant Montbretias in clumps or groups about twelve to fifteen corms in a group. Set the corms about three inches apart and cover them with about three inches of soil. They will grow in any good garden soil, but succeed best in a fairly rich, loamy soil. Like the gladioli and other bulbs, fresh strawy manure for a fertilizer should not be used when planting them. No manure or fertilizer should come in direct contact with the corms when planted. I have often wondered that more of these pretty little bulbs with their quaint, oddly colored flowers are not oftener seen in our gardens. Most of our seedsmen catalogue them for sale. Plant a few of them as early as possible this spring.

Short Hints on Planting

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IN transplanting fibrous rooted, or indeed almost any perennial plants, the height and density of habit are the main points to consider as to the distance apart. A good general rule is to have the very tall plants at least two or three feet from any other plant. By setting the taller plants four or five feet apart toward the back or centre of the border, plants of medium height could then be planted between them. The same rule could be followed to some extent with the medium height plants. Plants of medium height should be planted mainly toward the middle of the border. One or two feet apart is a good distance apart for these last. Planted two or three feet apart would allow of dwarf plants and clumps of spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, narcissus being planted between them. These last named bulbs should, of course, be planted in the fall.

A plant or two of perennial larkspur or *Anchusa Italica* dotted here and there about twenty or thirty feet apart may be planted in about the centre of the border. These plants stand out in conspicuous relief. The plants used for this purpose should be of a fairly compact habit, the kinds named are well suited for this purpose. The dwarf perennials should be planted about a foot apart. The clump or group system of planting is best for perennials. I consider spring the best time for transplanting fibrous-rooted perennials, as the spring flowering bulbs are all showing, and there is not so much danger of disturbing them as there is by planting in the fall. Otherwise, early fall planting for all perennials is desirable.

MONTBRETIAS

The pretty, late-flowering plants known as Montbretias belong to the bulbous-rooted class. To be correct, they are produced from corms similar to the crocus and gladiolus. Indeed, the Montbretias might very justly be called "miniature gladiolus," being much like the last named flower, not only in the form of growth and the reproduction of their corms, but also from the habit of their growth and the form of their flowers. In the color of their flowers, however, there is not found the wide range found in the gladioli, the dominant colors of Montbretias being mainly of a yellow or brown, or shades of these colors. They are, however, very

pretty and attractive. A vase of them with their wavy, graceful, dark green foliage interspersed with their oddly-shaped trumpet-like blossoms of all shades of orange, brown and bronze, make them very acceptable for cut floral decorations toward the end of summer, when flowers are sometimes scarce in the garden.

The best time to plant the corms is very late in the fall or very early in the spring, just as soon in spring as they can be got into the ground. The corms (or bulbs) cannot sometimes be obtained early enough in the fall to plant, as the plants are often green and vigorous and in flower until winter sets in for good. If the corms can be obtained, they may be planted successfully in November. They are not quite as hardy as tulips and narcissus, therefore it is best to protect them during winter by placing over them four or five inches of strawy manure. Most of the varieties will come through the winter all right treated in this way. Some growers make a point of digging the corms very late in fall after the tops have been frozen and winter them over in a cool, fairly dry cellar in a temperature of about forty degrees Fahrenheit. They should not be kept in a hot, dry cellar during winter. I have found it a good plan to lay the corms in a shallow box and cover them with an inch or two of dry sand or dry sandy soil, leaving the tops on and standing out from

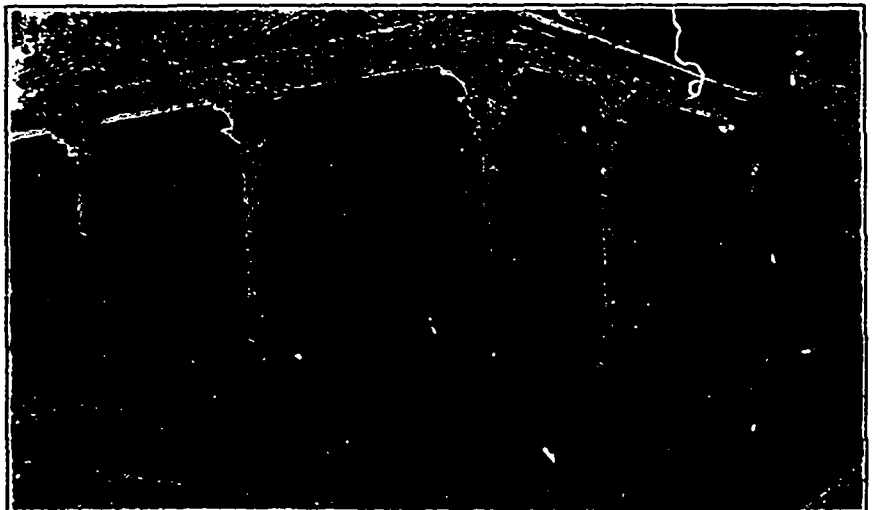
Rose Culture

By an Amateur

Whatever shade you have for your roses must not be provided by trees. The roots of these rob the soil and their leaves prevent a free circulation of air. Close proximity to buildings and fences should be avoided, as the reflection of the sun's rays upon the flowers causes them to wither very quickly, and in winter the snow is liable to drift too deeply over the plants, breaking them down.

LOCATION OF THE BED

The location of the rose bed should be on ground thoroughly drained either naturally or artificially. The matter of soil is of less importance than location, as roses will grow in almost any soil short of pure sand. You will, however, give them the best sort you have or can procure.



A Prize Verandah in a Competition Conducted Last Year by the Ottawa Horticultural Society
Residence of Mrs. D. T. MacLaurin