

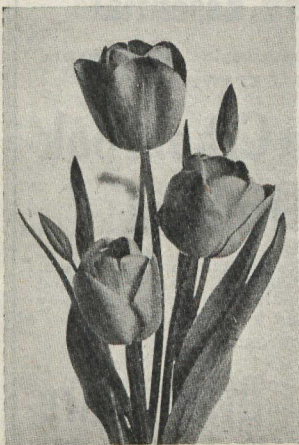
Pupils at Work in the Spring Street Academy Vegetable School Garden, Amherst, N. S., the First Year.

The Bold Tulip

A Beautiful Race of Flowers for Canadian Gardens

By E. T. COOK

ONE of the most sumptuous flowers of spring, flowers that herald in summer days is the Tulip. We are accustomed to the quite early Tulips, the Rubra maxima and others, but it is the "Darwins," the big chalices that open wide to the sun to which attention is directed, and the planting time is at hand. A collection displayed last spring in a Canadian garden created unexpected interest, the wonderful shades of mauve and heliotrope, deep purples that in the evening sun seemed as black as the approaching night, crimsons and scarlets and yellows and minglings of soft and dazzling hues, were revealed, and many suggested not only charming indoor decorations, but shades for personal adornment. One of the greatest dress designers admitted that



Barrs' English Darwin Tulips.

he sought flower land for his inspirations and certainly the Darwin Tulips offer a charming school for this object.

This type of Tulip has many attractions. It is of the greatest service for cutting, owing to a considerable length and strength of stem, this varying, according to the variety, from eighteen inches to two feet, and not only in big formal groups, but in the shadow of the woodland these noble flowers shine with no uncertain floral light. The writer is enthusiastic about these flowers, having seen acres of them in England and Holland, dazzling carpets of beauty with sometimes a sweet scent of bluebell and primrose wafted on the wind. Many of the kinds are very fragrant, though even those who possess a collection are sometimes unaware of it. It is strange that some flowers are not suspected of scent, unless it may be the one known all the world over for this sweet attribute, the Rose, as an outstanding example, but three great families occur at once to mind, all favourites in Canada, the Tulip, Pæony and the German or Flag Iris. A Tulip called Macrospila has the perfume of the Rose itself, and Primrose Beauty recalls to those who have lived in the old country the little, pale wildling of wayside bank and coppice, the Primrose, the firstling of the year.

It is interesting when planting to have a colour scheme in one's thoughts and not thrust all shades against each other, some destroying a harmony that should be one of the planter's objects. The lighter

lilac and heliotrope coloured varieties blend charmingly, for instance, with such yellow kinds as Mrs. Moon, Vitellina, Gesneriana lutea, flava and Golden Spire, and if these are associated in a scattered planting, where a slight shade is thrown from the woodland, the picture is the more beautiful and the flowers remain longer in perfect freshness. One of the advantages of the Darwin Tulip is a long life; it is with us for a month at least, in a cool season even longer, and is less buffeted by wind and rain than those that arrive early, which are roughly classed as "Dutch" forms. Sufficient has been written, therefore, to suggest to those who know not the Darwins that no garden is worthy of the name without a few, and when the gardens are ample, they should fill a large part in their spring decoration, both in the open and the conservatory.

THEIR cultivation is simplicity itself. The bulbs should be planted six inches deep, not less, if soil is heavy, and if it is light, then a depth of another inch will suffice, and eight inches apart. A wet soil is fatal, or one not properly drained. Anything approaching stagnation will mean absolute failure. By heavy is intended good garden ground, with a covering of littery manure on the surface, but no manure whatever must touch the bulbs themselves. When the leaves are just spearing through the soil, not a moment before, on account of frosts, remove the light littery layer, and then a glorious display should result.

It is attention to details that brings success, and in this case the details are not troublesome to follow. The writer a few years ago possessed a collection which gave infinite pleasure, and to protect the buds as much as possible from very hot suns and hailstorms a strong, yet light, screen was always put up. A hailstorm, when the buds are developing, leaves an unsightly mark, due to their fleshy texture. Those who exhibit these flowers always give protection for this reason. When the leaves are turning yellow, lift the bulbs carefully and dry them in the sun or on a greenhouse bench, sorting them into sizes. If the collection is named, be careful to put every set of bulbs into its proper bag and store away in a cool place until planting time again comes round.

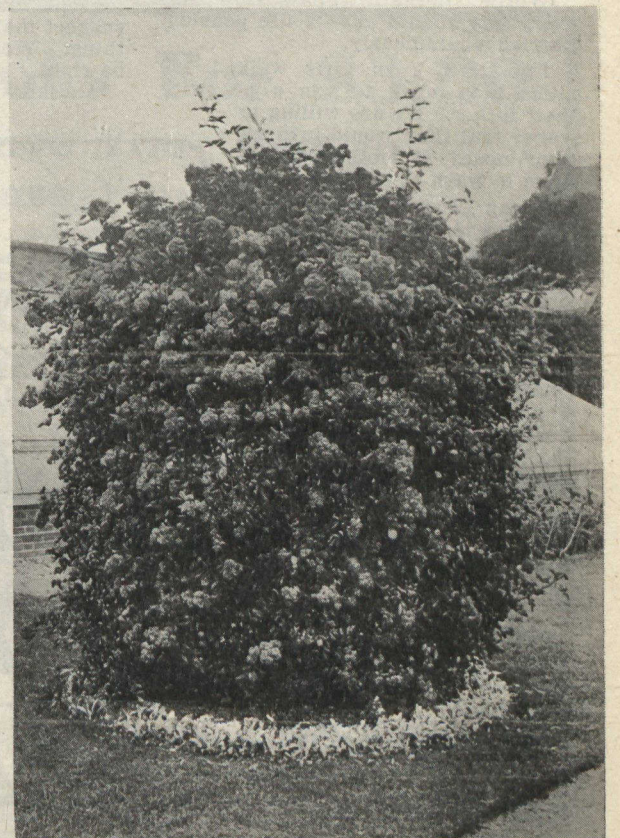
The names of a few of the most beautiful and least expensive are given, and though there are many quite as exquisite, their price is at present prohibitive to the majority of those who love their gardens, but selections drawn from the named varieties are available. These are, of course, mixed, and therefore it is not possible to get groups of one colour. The choice is as follows: Baronne de la Tonnaye, silvery rose; Beauty, golden yellow and red; Bouton d'or, the colour of the Buttercup; Carminea, crimson carmine; Clara Butt, delicate rose; Dom Pedro, bronze; Dream, rose and heliotrope; Edouard Andre, rosy mauve; Ellen Willmott, primrose; Emanuel Sweerts, carmine and blue; Faerie Queen, heliotrope rose; Firefly, orange red; Fulgens, crimson; Gesneriana spathulata, glowing crimson; G. lutea, yellow; Glow, vermilion; Golden Crown, colour suggested by the name; Inglescombe, pink; Lantern, silvery rose; Loveliness, rosy white; Margaret, cream-pink; Phyllis, lilac rose; The Sultan, often called the Black Tulip; Wedding Veil, rosy heliotrope; La Merveille, old

rose and buff; Macrospila, already described; Orange Beauty, Orange Globe, Rosalind, cherry rose and white; Picotee, white with a margin of rose; Rosetta, rose with a few crimson flakes; Snowdon, pure white passing to pink; Strangulata, primrose and rose, and The Fawn, fawn and rose.

An often forgotten attraction of most of these Tulips is the inner base of the flower, which is sometimes electric blue against white and sometimes an inky pool and scarlet, a wonderful colour effect, unexpectedly so when the big petals open wide in the full sun. Tulip flowers close towards evening.

The Daffodil a Neglected or an Almost Unknown Flower in Canada

THE Daffodil, of which poets of all ages have written, the sweetest flower that bends in the spring winds, is almost unknown, save in a few oft-repeated forms in all parts of the Dominion. The Poet's-Narcissus or Pheasant's-eye, white as the snow, and some yellow kinds, are to be seen in the shops of our large cities and weary one with their constant presence. One is conscious of a glorious host that are lovingly cared for and largely grown in Europe and America. A Daffodil Society, an assemblage of earnest men and women, exists in England, and we believe there is a similar institution in the States, but the fairest flower that blows is scarcely recognized in Canada. Some years ago the famous Peter Barr visited Toronto on his memorable journey round the world and was heartily welcomed. He was named the Daffodil king for his devotion to the flower and the many kinds he had introduced through collecting or hybridization, but slight trace exists of his then inspiring words, which were the means of creating an enthusiasm in Australia and New Zealand which grows stronger as the years roll on. Why is this? The writer had the pleasure of planting and flowering, through the kindness of one of Canada's great citizens, a collection of fifty kinds, representing some of the leading groups into which this great family is divided. It would require a large volume to describe the Daffodils in existence, the wildings or species and the great throng of lovely hybrids, but mixed collections may be obtained cheaply for



A Splendid Example of the Crimson Rambler Rose. It is Grown Over a Wire Frame Work.

planting in woodland, border, and in pots. Perhaps before planting in woodland it would be well to acquire some experience. It is unwise to dapple mead and copse with Daffodils unless the most careful consideration is given to soil and rodents. Disappointment and failure are fatal in most natures to future endeavours, and a special article is needful for the purpose, but there is one form in which a beginning may be made, and that is in growing the bulbs in bowls and pots.

The writer spent last Christmas in a lonely farmhouse and will ever remember the joy the fresh

(Concluded on page 19.)