



Flower Garden and Lawn. K

COREOPSIS.

THE coreopsis of our gardens embraces several species and varieties of hardy native annual plants, being found in immense quantities in various sections of Texas, Nebraska and Oregon. In their native homes the flowers bear but little resemblance in size and form to those in cultivation at the present day. The plants grow from one to three feet in height, and although they are of somewhat slender habit yet the growth is vigorous and compact. The flowers, which are of the size and shape of our common field daisy, embrace every shade of yellow, orange and rich reddish brown, varying to red or crimson, some varieties being nicely marked. The flowers, which are produced in the greatest abundance, are borne on slender foot stalks, and are very desirable for cut-flower purposes during the summer, as they remain a long time in perfection after being cut. The calliopsis forms a very attractive object when grown in groups in the mixed border. The period of bloom depends entirely on the season and manner in which the plants are grown.

As the coreopsis is so hardy it is an easy plant to grow, and often little or no care is bestowed upon it, and the result is that the flowers are small and quite inferior in size and color. Now this

should not be the case. Give the plants an opportunity to properly develop themselves, and see how well they will repay all the care and attention bestowed upon them. The coreopsis does best when grown in a sunny situation and in a deep, moderately enriched soil. The plants should not be crowded together, but be given ample space.

As the coreopsis proves to be so hardy, in most places surviving the winter with slight protection, I consider it desirable, when an early bloom is desired, to sow seeds early in September on a nicely prepared border, in a sheltered situation; sow thinly, cover slightly, and as soon as the plants are well up, thin out, so that they stand four or five inches apart, and as soon as the ground becomes frozen, cover slightly with straw or evergreen branches.

As soon as the weather becomes settled in the spring the covering should be removed and the plants transferred to the place where they are to bloom. Thus treated they will bloom very early in the season, and where a succession of the finest flowers are desired an additional spring sowing will be absolutely necessary. For this purpose the seed should be sown in a cold frame early in April, or on a nicely prepared border early in May, and the plants afterwards