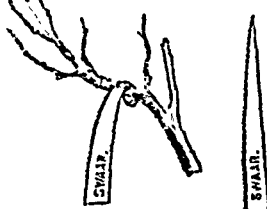


awl, point of a file, or other hard point, so as to cut through the tin-coat into the iron. The name thus written becomes rusted where the point passes through, and renders the letters distinctly visible. The narrow end is passed once or twice around a branch, and holds the label, yielding as the tree grows. The accompanying cut explains the appearance and mode of using this kind of label.



THE GREENHOUSE.

We commend the following from the *Iowa Home-Steak*, to those of our readers who would like to have a small greenhouse:—

I began my little house by excavating a pit three feet deep, ten feet wide and thirty-five feet long, running north and south. The glass structure is thirty feet long, formed of twenty sash-like feet four inches long by three feet wide, made from two inch stuff, with 8x10 glass. The sash were made thus strong so as to bear up their own weight, no rafters being used to support them. Around the sides of the pit were set up pieces of 2x4 scantling four feet high, with a bevelled plate on top, to which the lower ends of the sashes were screwed, except every third one, that being hinged to the ridge pole, to tilt up for ventilation when the weather becomes too warm. The sides and ends were boarded with common rough lumber, thus to keep the earth from caving in. As the sides extended a foot above the level ground, earth was banked up sloping as high as the eaves.

The sashes rest on a shoulder let into the ridge pole at a proper angle. At the entrance (south end) is a glass door, a triangular sash on each side filling up the corners. All possible light should be let in, from every direction. Two benches, each three feet six inches wide, run along the sides, with a three-foot walk through the centre. The benches might be four feet wide, and the walk contracted to two feet; but a reach across a four-foot bench, to a short person with a short arm, is too much. A rough shed is attached to the rear, for storing coal, potting earth and tools.

The heating is done by a brick furnace, with a flue made of eight-inch cement drain-pipe, running under the bench on the west side. This pipe is better than the ordinary brick flue, as the joints can be made tighter, and they will not leak smoke and coal gas, so injurious to plant life. Having the pipe recommended, and not knowing just how to use it, I committed an error in putting it too close to the furnace; the consequence was that when firing hard during cold nights to keep up the necessary temperature, the joints cracked within eight feet of the furnace. This defect was remedied by letting the pipes remain in place and building a brick flue right over and around them, with bricks set up edgewise. Would not advise putting this cement pipe any nearer than fifteen feet of the furnace.

Two inches of sand are placed on the benches, and on this the plants are set. This sand is daily sprinkled with water, as also the walk to maintain proper moisture. Pans of water are placed on the furnace and pipes, a constant evaporation being thus kept up. This moist atmosphere is necessary to keep down the minute red spider. Green lice are kept in check by smoking with tobacco. Every week a small fire of shavings is made on the floor, and dampened tobacco stems thrown over, which soon fills the whole house with a dense, stifling smoke. The door is closed tight, and left so all night.

The grate bars are one foot wide and thirty inches long, and the furnace twelve inches high inside. This gives a large heating surface, sufficient to maintain any desired temperature. I had almost forgotten to state the cost of the work on this little greenhouse, which was \$235 all told. The labor was all done by hired hands, at a time of year when mechanics were busy, and a carpenter could hardly be had for love or money. Any man handy with tools, and who could paint and glaze the sash himself, might put it up at an expense of probably \$50 less than the above amount.

Having the flue under but one bench, of course one end of the house is warmer than the other, and a temperature suited to a varied collection of plants can be maintained, there being a difference of ten to fifteen degrees between each end. Plants requiring the most heat are placed nearest the furnace, while those of a cooler nature take the cold end. The amateur grower must learn thus to discriminate between plants needing different degrees of heat, for this is why so many fail in growing house plants to perfection, with a mis-

cellaneous collection; for while some would be growing luxuriantly, others would be burned up.

A greenhouse full of plants—(mine isn't yet!) how many look upon it as a pleasant and beautiful place, yet imagine it an expensive luxury, difficult to manage, and only to be thought of by the wealthy, with a hired gardener to take care of it; while it does not cost as much as many suppose, and there is not a woman, girl or youth, with a natural love of flowers, who could not soon learn the art of propagation from cuttings and growing from seeds, and how to manage a small plant-house.

Aquilegia Corulea.

Perfectly hardy border plants are always desirable, and the more especially when they combine this very important quality with those of gracefulness and beauty. The variety to which we now call the attention of our readers was introduced to the lovers of the beautiful, some years ago, and having been fully tested since then, we feel warranted in recommending it as well worthy of a place in every Canadian flower garden. It is found growing wild on the sides of the Rocky Mountains, and fully maintains the hardy character that might be expected of it. The flowers are very beautiful from the contrast



between the pure white petals, and the clear deep blue of the outer sepals which surround them. A very good idea of the form and appearance of the flower will be obtained by examining the accompanying engraving which our artist has executed with great truthfulness. The plant is a most profuse bloomer, and when covered with its blue and white flowers forms a very attractive object, and may well be ranked among the very finest of all our beautiful herbaceous plants. We presume it can be obtained of all our leading nurserymen.

Among hardy perennial plants, the above may be ranked as one of the finest. It has been pronounced to be not only the queen of columbines, but even the most beautiful of all herbaceous plants. The flowers measure from 3 to 3½ inches in diameter. The outer five petals as well as the long spurs are of a beautiful violet blue. The inner petals are pure white, forming a pleasing contrast. The plant being perfectly hardy, and remaining a long time in bloom, renders it quite an acquisition to our rather meagre list of hardy herbaceous plants.

Its cultivation is quite simple. The seed can be sown in the spring in a frame, box or open border, and afterwards transplanted wherever it may be desired, to remain in the open borders. A slight covering of straw or litter may be thrown over the plants for protection during the winter, and the following spring the cultivator will be amply repaid by the profusion and beauty of its blooms.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

EARLY TOMATO PLANTS.

A correspondent of the *Rural New-Yorker*, says: I took a small box, 12x20 inches, 6 inches deep, and filled it with good garden soil and set in on the kitchen stove-drum, and let it sit there till the earth was thoroughly warmed; then took a stick and made marks an inch apart, 4½ inches deep in the earth, cross-ways of the box; then scattered tomato seeds quite thick along the rows and covered them about ½ of an inch deep; then took a newspaper and wet it and covered the box to prevent the earth from getting dry on top. The box was set on a bench near the stove after the seeds were sown and the following day set on the stove drum again, for the purpose of keeping up the heat in the soil, being careful not to let it get too hot. In 48 hours from the time the seed was sown, they had sprouted and many had broken the ground, a few were near ½ inch high. When the plants had attained to the height of two inches I transplanted them into other boxes about 1½ inches apart each way. The plants were left in these boxes till they had attained a height of four inches and then transplanted into a sort of hot bed made as follows: A pit was dug in the side of a hill facing the south-east, six feet wide by twelve feet long, and posts driven in the ground at the corners and one on each side 6 feet from either end. On these posts, boards were nailed two feet high in front and 2½ feet high at the back, giving 6 inches fall from back to front. In this frame I put fresh horse manure, mixed with litter, such as is found at farmer's horse-stables, to the depth of 12 inches, pressing it down firmly as I put it in; then put on 6 inches of good soil and covered the bed with covers, made by stretching and nailing with 10-oz. tacks, common heavy brown muslin on light frames 3 x 6 feet. These frames were made of white pine lath, sawed 1 x 3 inches, halved at the corners and nailed with clinch nails. Common cut nails heated to near a white heat and allowed to cool very slow, are just as good as the clinch nails sold at the hardware stores and are much cheaper.

After the covers were put on, a board was laid across the upper ends of them, reaching from one end of the hot-bed frame to the other; and also across the lower ends, to prevent heavy winds from moving them. As soon as the soil in the bed was sufficiently warmed I raked it down smooth and marked it in rows 4½ inches apart and set the plants the same distance apart in the rows.

Before removing the plants from the boxes, the soil was thoroughly wet in order to cause as much soil as possible to stick to the roots; then a case-knife was drawn through the soil, midway between the plants each way, about four inches deep, and in removing the plants no difficulty was experienced in keeping the dirt about their roots. After being transplanted and the covers put on, no care whatever was given them except an occasional watering.

About the 20th of May, the plants were removed to the open ground, the same care being exercised as regarded watering and cutting between the rows, that had been when transplanted to the hot-bed. These plants were as fine as any I ever saw grown anywhere, except those grown in a green-house in pots. Tomato plants must have age in order to produce early tomatoes.

THE HUBBARD SQUASH.

As the time is at hand when our readers will be providing themselves with seeds for the kitchen garden, we give them the opinion of an Iowa correspondent concerning this very fine flavored vegetable. He says. Though desirable as this excellent vegetable is, yet it is often not appreciated, on account of not being pure, as it is very liable to mix if planted "within gun shot" of anything else in the line of pumpkins, melons or squashes. Use pure seed, keep them unmixed, and gather before frost, and they justly deserve the first place on the table, next to the potato, during the scarcity of green things in winter, as it is emphatically a winter squash, keeping sometimes as late as April.