

ural or insect agencies. All who desire to see the tuberous begonia at its best should plant a small bed with dark blood red singles or doubles, about ten inches apart, and between these plant alyssum minimum as a ground work. The snow-like carpet of the latter will bring out the color of the former in bold relief, the combination being magnificent. Begonia Bertini nana, B. Count Zeppelin, and B. Lafayette are likewise admired to a greater extent when treated in this manner than when planted pure.

When the stems commence to decay or when they are cut down by frost, lift the tubers with the remaining foliage, and if possible with a quantity of soil adhering to them. Pack them in shallow boxes, stems upward, place these on a greenhouse bench or in a shed near a window, so that light may have access to them

until the growth entirely decays. Remove all decayed stems to facilitate the drying of the tubers, otherwise they may become diseased. Carefully remove all soil and spread the tubers on a shelf for a day or so, and finally store them in layers, in boxes containing dry sand, two inches of sand or so between each layer of tubers.

Place the boxes away for the winter in a dry frost proof shed, cellar, or greenhouse, the latter being preferable. Aim to maintain an average temperature of 50 degrees, not allowing it to fall for any length of time below 40 degrees or to rise to 60 degrees. These winter temperatures are deleterious, inasmuch as the former will chill, and cause the tubers to decay, while the latter will influence growth to start at an unnatural and undesirable time.

soil. As soon as the roots have fairly well filled these, re-pot them into a two or three sized larger pot, a six-inch pot. This can be done usually about the first week in May, using good, rich, loamy potting soil. Place nearly an inch of broken flower pot or similar material for drainage in the bottom of the pot before potting.

One point in potting chrysanthemums, at any time, is that the soil must be packed very firm around the roots. Use a small piece of hardwood for this purpose. Water the plants well once as soon as potted. Shade them from hot sun for a few days. Keep the soil they are growing in well moist at all times. The soil should never become really dry. Spray the growth with water, especially on the under side of the foliage at least every few days, oftener if possible, in bright, sunny weather.

## Home Culture of Chrysanthemums

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THE chief reason why these popular autumn flowers are not more commonly grown by amateurs is because they are so liable to attacks of insect pests. Some twenty-five or thirty years ago the greater part of these plants grown by commercial florists were field grown. To-day one seldom if ever sees a field-grown plant; they are almost all grown under glass. The small pest called the Tarnish Plant Bug (*Lygus pratensis*) is mainly responsible for this. This is the same pest that is so destructive to the aster bloom, causing so many blooms to be imperfect in form, large gaps often being seen in the petals, spoiling the appearance of the flower. The buds and terminal points of growth of dahlias, too, are often spoiled by the same insect.

These pests are very common on many garden plants besides those named, especially on garden corn. They usually appear in June and continue their attacks all through the hot weather. As they apparently do very little harm to any of the economic plants in the garden, having a particular liking for the decorative plants only, they have not received much attention from entomologists, as there does not appear to be any really effective remedy found yet for them.

Another insect that attacks the chrysanthemum is the Black Aphis, a black and near relative of the Green Aphis, so common on house and garden plants. In very dry seasons the Red Spider (*Tetranychus telarius*) is troublesome, but it is not as injurious as the two first-named if the plants are given proper attention.

There are three methods by which chrysanthemums can be propagated, viz., from cuttings, divisions of the old

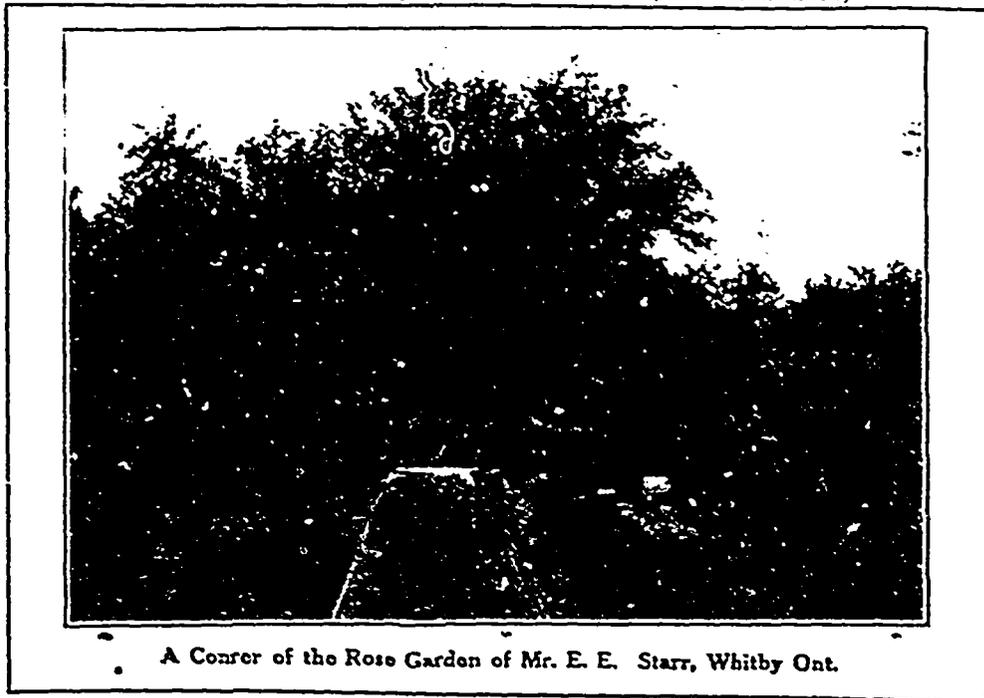
roots, and from seed. The best method for an amateur is by dividing up the old plants. This can be done every year or at least every second year, to prevent the plants becoming too large and cumbersome. Old plants that have been kept in a cool window or a light basement or cellar all the winter should be brought up into a cool, sunny window, away from fire heat in March.

When the young growth is about one or two inches in length, divide the plants with a large knife into small divisions or sections, each section having good roots and three or four shoots of top growth. Pot these sections into pots just large enough to hold the plant nicely, not too large, four-inch usually, in good potting soil, with about one part sand to eight or ten parts of potting

The cuttings are taken from the young growth that starts near to and around the base of the old flowering stem about March or April, or from the top growth of young plants. The stem of the cutting should be from two to four inches in length. The base of the cutting should be just below a node or point of the stem. Remove about half of the lower leaves, leaving three or four of the top leaves on. Leave the terminal point of growth intact.

The best material to root the cuttings in is clean, gritty sand, sand that will make good stone mortar. The sand should be well moistened and packed firmly in a flower pot, seed pan, or a shallow flat box, each having good drainage. Set the cuttings upright in the sand about one and one-half inches apart, inserting rather more than half the length of the main stem in the sand.

(To be continued)



A Corner of the Rose Garden of Mr. E. E. Starr, Whitby Ont.