



A Charming Country Residence. The Surrounding Garden Should Not Be Cut Up Into Flower Beds. Note the Fine Hedge and Cool-looking Lawn Slope and Shade.

A Page About Gardens

The Fleur de Luce or Iris, Commonly Called "Flag"

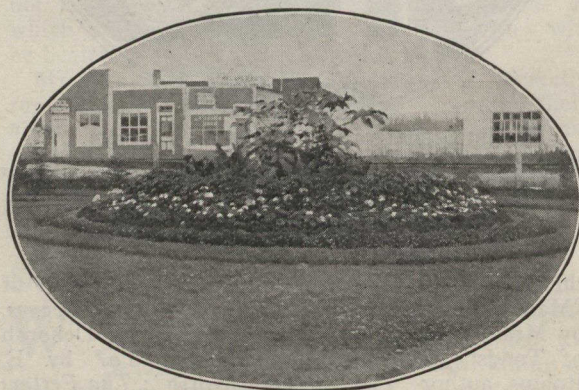
By E. T. COOK

THE great Iris family is divided into groups and each has given something to the gardens of many climes, but anything approaching even a brief review of the family is out of the question in these pages. One type will be taken, the German Flag, *Iris germanica*, which we have reason to believe will be the popular flower of the near future. It has the merit of living almost anywhere, and seems as much at home in the moist sort of pond or lakeside as in the herbaceous border. It is wise, however, not to slavishly copy other people's fancies, but to think things out oneself. This, it was pointed out recently, is the only way to achieve interesting results. The Flag is usually confined to the border. It is, of course, beautiful there, but that is not the place in which the rich variety of colouring is in the most appropriate setting. Deep purple blue is the colour of the type, and that is seen to best advantage with a background of green foliage from woodland or shrubbery.

I remember a picture of Alfred Parsons, one of the Royal Academicians, in which the German Flag was on the fringe of a spacious lawn where the cool light gave full value to the blue colouring and the whole formed a perfect composition. Not far away were yellow day lilies, and peering in on the scene the brave splashes of flower colour from the great, flaring Eastern Poppy. Wherever the Poppy called *Orientalis* is established on the fringe of the shrubbery there is no dullness—it seems full of sunshine whilst the great petals last. The Iris in our thoughts requires no description and its inexpensiveness is certainly a virtue, therefore it should be chosen for planting where large quantities are desired. A lake or pond margin lined with the sword-shaped leaves, and large, scented, blue flowers is a June picture of summer charm, and from this the rarer kinds have arisen. The Iris is first cousin to the Orchid, and there is much resemblance between the two apparently greatly dissimilar families, in one point, the colouring of the flower. Black seems the only colour not represented, but that is no loss. Shades of blue, claret, purple, yellow, and soft, glistening white are laid on the broad, fragrant petals, and when the plants are in partial shade, they remain unsullied for many days, a succession of buds maintaining the display. Sometimes a white ground is mottled and marbled with some decided tint and the flower spikes make bold decorations for halls or large rooms.

One of the leading horticulturists in Canada declared that the German Iris and its section would soon be first favourites, and this has come to pass partly from the introduction of a series of beautiful variations. Queen of all is *Pallida*, perhaps the noblest of all hardy perennials, the strong, tall stem bearing flowers of softest blue tinted with rose, and their fragrance is of the hawthorn. It is commonly supposed that a few flowers only possess that most alluring of all attributes—fragrance. A frequent remark is, "I did not know so and so was sweetly scented." The Iris is filled with perfume, and many of the Tulips smell of Primroses and Pæonies. Of Violets, *Pallida* has, however, the

characteristic Iris scent, suggesting the thorn of the woodland, and it represents a small, distinct group, in which *Dalmatica* and *Walner* are the finest, all of lavender shades. Passing from this,



Excellent Work is Being Done by the Railroads in Beautifying Their Depots. The Lawn at Englehart, on the T. & N.O. Line.

Aurea, golden yellow, as its name suggests, *Bridesmaid*, white with the lining to the petals; *Cordelia*, pale blue; *Darius*, yellow variegated with rich brown; *Gracehas*, lemon-yellow; *Madame Chereau*, white edged with deep lavender; *Princess of Wales*, clear white; *Purple King*, Queen of May, rosy lilac, with yellow veins, and *Victorine*, which, though last on the list, should be placed after *Pallida*.

A few words will dismiss cultivation, of which little is required. Moisture and half shade bring about the finest results, and in all cases, the soil should be rich and liberally manured. Plant immediately after flowering, and divide also at the same season. This may seem against general rules, but the Iris never prospers so abundantly as when this time is selected for root disturbance.

A Few Hints on the Flower Garden

By GEORGE BALDWIN

AT this present time, with growth and vegetation around us, the average householder or the enthusiastic gardener thinks it is time for him to take part in beautifying the home garden. This spring has given us a good display of bulbs in gardens, which were planted last fall; I mean the annual bulbs of Tulips, etc., although at the present time there are fine blooms of the Perennial Tulips, or Darwins. The difference in the two classes can be gathered from the fact that while the former is short lived, the latter can remain and multiply and flower in the same place for a number of years.

What is the best course open to improve my garden? In most cases this question is looked at from an economical point of view. To those who cannot afford the high priced bedding plants, a good display of bloom, until the late frost sets in, can be obtained by the use of flowering annuals.

It is not always in a small garden that one has

many large beds to furnish. But there may be, say, two or three near the front aspect, and it is of these that an extra show is made. Cannas, *Salvras*, *Gladiolus*, *Geraniums*, together with the dwarfed plants, can be procured at most stores. A centre bed for a good summer show can be made up of *Cerastium*, intermixed with *Celosias* and *Scarlet Breuchyleuse*, *Gladiolus*. The whole forms a charming and effective display.

Not only must the attention be turned to beds, but also to the flower border, where a few packets of seeds can be made to produce flowers. Suitable for the house decoration; *Scabious*, *Salpeglossis*, *Cornflowers*, *Gypsophella*, with a great many others, can be sown in small patches. A few twigs and a label keeps one in mind what they have sown.

Shall we turn our attention one minute to the verandah? In this connection a few climbers, such as *Cobra*, *Japanese Hop*, *Canary Creeper*, planted now will soon cover up a few feet of space.

The Herbaceous border has latterly become very popular. Pæonies, a few days ago, were showing leaf. Now, thanks to the warm sun, they are in bloom. It is a wise plan always to keep some sticks close at hand, for this particular border, as *Dahlias*, *Delpheniums*, etc., get top heavy and a high wind or the approach of a thunder-storm will do much damage to these plants.

A word can also be said not only as to the adornment of the flower beds and borders, but also with regard to window boxes, rustic vases, hanging baskets, etc., which all help to give seasonable results. The worthy *Schizanthus* need not be neglected. As a hanging basket plant it is very effective. To give the reader some idea of what the *Schizanthus* is like, a short trip should be made to Allan Gardens, in the large conservatory of which, for some time past, these beautiful flowers have been in bloom, admired by all. Some say they can only be grown in pots. But it will pay to place about six small seedlings in a hanging basket. The result will prove its merits.

Individuality in Plots

THE maker of a garden should beware of mere imitation. One man's garden should not suit every other man on the street. It is bad enough to have lawns and house-fronts a conformity without making flower-plots and borders and ivies as much alike as peas in a pod. There are so many various effects to be got from modern blooms with a little study that the man who simply follows a fashion or a rule is very foolish indeed. So much depends on suiting the particular blooms and masses to the space they are to occupy. It would be foolish to have a mass of sunflowers in a plot the size of a Persian rug.



Along the Banks of the Assiniboine River: a View Which Shows What May Be Done with Good Planting, Even if There Be No Stream.