

compact the soil firmly with the foot.

When planting roses cut off any injured parts of roots and cut back the tops to from three to seven inches above ground. The second year prune in the spring as soon as the buds begin to show. If you want good roses cut them ruthlessly down to within a few inches of the ground and just above an outside bud, as inside buds will spoil the symmetry of the plant and not let the sun and air into the centre of the plant. The weaker the plant the harder it should be pruned.

Climbing roses need little pruning, except to cut off the dead wood. After a main root of these climbers has

bloomed for say two seasons, it is advisable to cut it off close to the main root immediately after it has bloomed, so that a new shoot or two will be grown to take its place with fresh flowering wood to give the next season's flowers. Each variety should have a good, permanent label of wood painted white and the name legibly written with an indelible pencil and wired with good copper wire, and it will last for years. An ordinary wood label with ordinary wire will become weather-worn in one season, and the wire will rust off during the winter, and unless you have a plan of your rose bed you are at a loss to know what your roses are the next spring.

Growing Bulbs in Fibre

John Gall, Weston

AS large numbers of flower lovers are practically unable to procure suitable soil for the planting of bulbs in pots, a few articles regarding the new method, known as "culture in prepared fibre," may be of considerable interest to dwellers in towns and others. This method, if carefully managed, gives excellent results, and as there is nothing difficult about it, every one may give it a trial. Any kind of bowl or dish will suit, providing it is not less than three or four inches deep. In mostly all seed stores may be purchased vessels made specially for this method of culture, and the prepared fibre may be got at the same place.

PREPARING THE FIBRE

It is often found that the fibre has got into rather a lumpy state, so it should be pulled or rubbed with the hands so as to get it into a nicely usable form. After the mass has been thus prepared, take a fine-rosed watering pan and sprinkle lightly with water; then mix with the hands, and if necessary add a little more water. What is to be aimed at is to get the fibre just nicely moist, but not soaking wet. This is of the very greatest importance, so if by any chance the material is made too wet spread it out for a day or so to dry somewhat.

PLANTING THE BULBS

Having got the fibre in proper shape, fill the bowls or other dishes to about an inch and a half from the tops, and then gently press the bulbs into this, but on no account make the material hard by unduly pressing it with the fingers. Fill in a little more of the fibre, so as just to cover the tops of the bulbs, leaving of course, a little space for watering. A few smart taps on the table will settle the material nicely around the bulbs without the necessity of pressing much with the fingers. If the potting material is in a nicely moist state, as described above, then no water should be given.

The bowls should be placed in a per-

fectly dark but rather airy place. Those having a garden could set the bulbs outside and cover them over with sand, and when so treated no further attention will be necessary for about six weeks in the case of tulips, hyacinths and crocuses, and twelve weeks in the case of daffodils. If kept indoors the dishes must be examined about once a week, so as to ascertain the condition of the potting material. If it appears to be getting dry give a little water, but do not soak it. If at any time it should chance that too much water has been given, tilt the dish gently, holding one hand over the mouth to prevent the bulbs from falling out, and so allow all the surplus moisture to escape.

If these few simple details be followed success is almost certain. The chief point to bear in mind is to keep the fibre just nicely moist from the time of potting until the flowers fade.

SUITABLE BULBS

While the bulk of bulbs will succeed partially, there are a few that give very best results if fair treatment is meted out. The following may be relied on and should be used by the beginner until he sees how he succeeds:

Hyacinths—White Roman, Schotel, L'Innocence, Jacques, and any of the miniature varieties fancied.

Tulips—Vermilion, Prince of Austria, Yellow Prince and Brilliant.

Daffodils—Sir Watkin, Empress, Queen of Spain, Emperor and Henry Irving.

Crocuses—Sir Walter Scott, May and John Bright.

Early potting gives best results, and I would advise that all be got in not later than the third week in November.

Roses are particularly impatient of stagnant water about their roots, and no manner of treatment will ensure success till the ground is thoroughly drained.

Sweet Pea Culture

W. T. Macoun, C. E. F., Ottawa.

The Sweet Pea is the most popular annual grown at Ottawa. Its popularity is well merited for it possesses most of the qualities which are desirable in a flower—grace of form, delicacy and variety of coloring, long stem for cutting, and a profusion of bloom from early summer until late autumn.

The soil should be prepared for sweet peas in the autumn to obtain the best results. Soils dug in the spring with the seed sown immediately, in many cases remain loose when there is not much rain during the spring months, and they dry out much easier than they would if they were more compact. My advice would be to prepare the soil for sweet peas in the autumn, thoroughly spading a trench about two feet wide and a foot deep, and working through it some well rotted manure. This soil will become thoroughly pulverized by the frost of winter and by planting time in spring will settle down sufficiently to make a fairly compact, though by no means hard, bed.

Of almost equal importance to a cool soil is abundance of sunlight. Sweet peas do not do well in shade, and just in proportion to the amount of sunlight the plants receive so will be the success, all other things being equal.

The sweet pea requires moisture and coolness in order to develop a good root system and a good root system means good plants and good flowers. Therefore, where it is possible a site for sweet peas should be chosen where the soil is naturally cool. A natural cool soil is usually one where there is a constant supply of moisture during the summer months. No amount of surface watering can make up for the lack of a cool soil, although good results are obtained by artificial watering even in dry, warm soils. While the soil should be cool and retentive of moisture it should be well drained as sweet peas like most garden flowers will not thrive in water-soaked ground.

Sweet peas do not require as rich soil as is generally supposed. The sweet pea belongs to the family of plants known as the leguminosæ, which are noted for the vigorous growth they make on land which is what is known as light soil. Clover, beans and garden peas are of this nature. They obtain much of their nitrogen from the air, hence highly nitrogenous soils are not necessary for sweet peas.

No gardener can dispense with the useful hoe in his endeavor to keep down the weeds and to loosen the surface of the soil, especially when heavy rains pass the ground.—H. M. Speechly, Pilot Mound, Man.