

**Some Annual Climbers**

A. C. Blair, Peterboro Co., Ont.

There are few plants that add so much to the attractiveness of the country home as vines and climbers. Verandas, summer houses, fences, rocks and old stumps of trees can be covered with vines with good effect. There are two classes of climbers that can be used for the purpose, perennial or woody, and annual. The former include Virginia creepers, Japanese or Boston ivy, various kinds of clematis, honeysuckle, Dutchman's pipe, wisteria, and so forth. In this short article, only the latter class, the annual climbers, will be dealt with.

The most popular of these plants is the sweet pea. For variety of color, delightful perfume and continuity of bloom, it is difficult to surpass. The chief requisite to its successful culture are early planting, plenty of moisture and good drainage. An excellent article on the culture of sweet peas appears in the horticultural section of this issue.

**MORNING GLORY**

An old-fashioned flower that deserves a place somewhere about the home is the common morning glory.

**A Luxuriant Morning Glory**

(Convulvulus major). To obtain the best results, the seed must be sown fairly early in spring, say, from the middle to the end of March. The Japanese morning glory (Ipomoea imperialis), is larger than the ordinary kind and more brilliantly colored.

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The cypress vine (Ipomaea Quamoclit) and the moon flower (Ipomaea grandiflora) also are good annual climbers. The best position for all these kinds is an eastern aspect or a place where they will not be exposed to the hot noon-day sun.

**NASTURTIUMS**

Nasturtiums are excellent climbers to furnish flowers for cutting. Do not plant in soil that is very rich for the plants will run to vine rather than to flowers. Choose a site that is exposed to full sunlight most of the day. Sow the seed at once, about two inches apart in the row and from one to two inches deep. After the plants are well established, thin them to six inches apart.

**JAPANESE HOP**

Both the plain and variegated types of Japanese hop are very pretty climbers. They grow rapidly. Sow the seed towards the end of May and when the plants are large enough, thin them out. When the new seeds form on the vines, pinch them off or they will spoil the fine effect that is desired.

**CLIMBING BEANS**

A free-blooming climber is the scarlet runner bean. They like a deep, rich soil and plenty of water. The seed should be sown when there will be no danger of frost after the young plants appear above ground. The east or north side of a building, if not too shaded, is the best location.

**COBEA SCANDENS**

Although a perennial, Cobea scandens can be treated as an annual when grown outside, as it winter-kills. As the seeds of this should be sown indoors or in a hot bed early in April, it will be necessary now to buy the plants from a florist. Plant them in the open towards the end of May or the first of June. This climber likes a light, rich soil.

**MISCELANEOUS**

There are many annual climbers but those described are the best. The canary bird vine, the Madeira vine, ornamental cucumbers, the wild cucumber, and Lophospermum scandens are excellent for special purposes and positions. The latter is a very effective trailer for hanging baskets or window boxes.

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**Helps for the Wife**

If the water be brought to the barn by the wind-mill, why not let it be brought into the house? Perhaps the good wife has to convey the waste water to an outside door, down a flight of steps to a safe distance from the house where it is thrown upon the grounds, when a sink with a waste pipe might be constructed in the kitchen, thus saving many steps and much hard lifting. If the sink and table be high, much stooping will be avoided. A tall stool adds much to the housekeeper's comfort and one can be improvised by cutting the top off a child's high chair. She can sit upon it when compounding bread and cake and other foods, also washing and wiping dishes and cleaning vegetables. A drop shelf is convenient and saves room. It can be attached to the wall by hinges and a prop fastened to the shelf by another hinge, this prop then falls into place easily and the shelf is against the wall when not in use. A dumb-waiter saves much travelling up and down stairs, but those who are not so fortunate as to possess one can stop and think how many things are needed before going to and from the cellar, and thus save our time and strength.

When we are cleaning away the remains of one meal we can decide what is to be had for the next, and if there is anything in the pantry or

cellar which will require time for preparation, bring it back with us when we go there with what is left from last meal. Before beginning to prepare a meal it is wise to stop and think how many things are needed from the cellar and bring as many as possible at a time and not travel the twelve to fifteen steps as many times as there are articles required. It is a good plan to use a tray in carrying things to and from the cellar. When the remains of one meal are removed from the tray, what is needed for the next meal can be placed on it. Another lady saves steps by putting all refuse into a pail at the end of the table. The pail is kept clean by the use of a newspaper placed in it before it is used. She keeps three dredging-boxes on the table, containing suet, sugar and flour, which are often in demand. Mrs. A. has a cupboard half way down her cellar stairs in which to put provisions and two or three shelves on the side that can be reached by just opening the door. These hold many things conveniently.

The house is the centre of the universe. Woman is the centre of home civilization, therefore, is dependent upon her health and her stimulating influence. All household improvements which can be provided to conserve her strength will add to her power and efficiency.

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**Little Hints**

If it is necessary to fit a gored or evenly-pleated skirt at the hips and waist line by "taking in" or "letting out," be quite sure to fit the skirt at each seam, and not make the alteration all in one place. In this way the proportionate width of the gores or pleats is retained, which is a necessary detail to good tailored and well-constructed skirts.

The carpet sweeper will be found more effective if pushed in the same direction as the pile of the carpet, not against it.

If a ham be plunged from boiling water at once into ice water, the fat will harden white and firm, giving the meat a fine color.

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