

The Rose Outdoors and its Culture*

C. Craig, Ottawa

THERE is no other flower that grows in the garden that can compare with the fresh, sweet perfume of the rose. The rose is "Queen of the Garden." Everybody loves the rose, and many people try to grow it; but how many succeed?—only a small percentage, I fear. Yet there is no great difficulty in successfully growing roses if you give the right conditions and the necessary attention.

SOIL

In the cultivation of the rose the first and most important consideration is good soil. I have found moderately heavy loam to be the best, and if success is

ere, with another layer of manure on that and finishing No. 1 trench with the soil from No. 2. I have seen large rose gardens trenched three feet deep with four layers of manure; but one must be governed by the soil he is working with. The object of this trenching is to provide nourishment wherever the roots may go; most roses are strong feeders.

To those who cannot always secure farmyard manure I would say that a good substitute is rough bone meal well worked into the soil. Deep cultivation is also a preventive against mildew and other fungous troubles.

When planting, by no means let the

well. Let plants get a good start, then apply the kindness.

FERTILIZERS

As a stimulant I would recommend sulphate of ammonia or Albert's manure, about one ounce to a gallon of water.

WATERING

Another important point in successful rose culture is the use of the hose. I fully endorse the remarks of one of our most successful rose growers, that cold water applied from a hose pipe with force is the best means of ridding your roses of insects, especially the red spider. If syringing and watering is carried out faithfully morning and evening, there will be little trouble from insects. Someone may ask, what about mildew if you water at night? If the plants have been properly cared for as to deep cultivation, and so forth, they will be in a state of health that mildew will hardly attack them. After a dry, parching day as we very often get, the plants seem to glory in a nightly bath.

In carrying out the foregoing the grower must study his plants. If they are inclined to be weak they will need careful handling and attention as to manuring or once more his kindness may prove disastrous. The object must be to build up a strong constitution in the plants, not a great amount of soft, rank growth, but good, hard, solid wood that will stand hardships, for the rose in Canada has many hardships to go through.

PRUNING

Pruning should be done immediately on the first sign of the buds swelling. It is difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule for pruning rose bushes, but speaking generally, I would say take out all weak wood and cut the preceding year's growth back to fifteen or eighteen inches above the soil. The grower must be observant as to the habit and vigor of his plants.

VARIETIES TO PLANT

In the following lists, I include varieties which I know are hardy. While there are some newer varieties which may be preferable, those I mention will give good satisfaction and encourage the amateur to enlarge his collection.

HYBRID PERPETUALS

Crimson—Alfred Colomb, Duke of Edinburgh, General Jacqueminot, Prince Camille de Rochan; red—Ulrich Brunner, General Washington, Jubilee; pink—Magna Charta, Paul Neyron, Mrs. John Laing, Mde. Gabrielle Luizet, Bar-



An Amateur's Water Garden—See Next Page

to follow, the soil must be deeply cultivated.

TRENCHING AND MANURING

The ground should be trenched at least eighteen inches or two feet, all depending on the subsoil. If it is possible to go two feet, or even three feet, without striking gravel or sand or other poor quality of soil, it will be all the better; for roses, especially hybrid perpetuals, are very deep rooting.

First take out your first trench eighteen inches to two feet wide, wheeling all that comes out of it to where you intend finishing the operation. If trenching eighteen inches to two feet, put a layer of manure in the bottom, then put the top spit of the top of the man-

roots come in contact with the manure. The young roots when beginning to grow are unable to assimilate the rank food and consequently die. It may not seem necessary to tell this, but all too frequently inattention to whether the roots come in contact with the manure or not, is the cause of failure to grow roses. I had an example of this last spring, when I sold some rose plants to a certain gentleman. He came to me a few weeks later and said that his roses were dead. In answer to my questions as to his mode of planting he said, "I gave them every chance and I filled the holes full of manure before I planted the roses." My remark was, "You killed the roses with kindness." This mistake often happens with the beginner, not only with roses, but with other plants as

*A portion of a paper read at a meeting of the Ottawa Horticultural Society in June.