

Planting Notes for the Fall

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THE month of October may be properly termed bulb planting month, although most of the hardy garden lilies would be better planted or transplanted, if they require it, early in September. It is far better, however, to plant lilies in October than to leave them until spring. It should be remembered, however, that bulbous rooted lilies especially should not be transplanted or disturbed oftener than is absolutely necessary, not until the bulbs have become so thick and crowded that they produce a degenerate type of flower. Lily bulbs do not like to be disturbed or moved very frequently. The same rule will apply to some of the hardy early, spring flowering, bulbous, fleshy or rhizome rooted border plants, such as the Dicentras or Dielytra. Dicentras Spectabilis, the old-fashioned Bleeding Heart, Dicentra Eximia, and the Corydalis nobilis and Corydalis bulbosa are all better planted, or transplanted in the fall, rather than in the spring. The Hemerocallis (Lemon Lily) and the Funkias or Day Lilies can also be planted in the fall to advantage.

GERMAN IRIS

German Iris can also be planted in the fall. In planting German Iris care should be taken not to bury the thick, fleshy rhizome roots far under the surface of the soil. It is best in planting these to first dig the ground well, then to firm it down well with the back of the spade, then insert the spade quite perpendicular to its full length so as to leave a narrow trench or opening the depth of the spade. In this the smaller more fibry roots growing from beneath the rhizome root should be placed, leaving the thick, fleshy rhizome root almost or quite on the surface of the soil. The ground should be pressed or tramped quite firm around the roots after planting. I have had better results by planting German Iris in the fall than by planting in the spring.

PAEONIES

The common garden herbaceous paeonies are best planted in the fall. If old clumps of these require dividing up and replanting there is no better time for both of these operations than early in October. Tree paeonies are best planted in the spring. These last-named are, however, seldom grown, as they are not hardy without winter protection outside of the Niagara district; even there they are often partially winter-killed.

Paeonies succeed best on a well enriched, fairly heavy soil. A well drained clay soil, if not of too close a texture, will suit them, or a clay loam soil is still better. Very light sandy or gravelly soils do not suit paeonies. In planting

paeony roots, the tops of the crowns or buds should be not more than an inch under the surface of the soil, when the roots are planted.

Clumps of paeony roots that have been growing for several years in the same place and become weakened from that cause should be divided and transplanted. One method of doing this is to remove the earth from one or two sides of the root and take off a section or two of the root for planting elsewhere, leaving the major portion of the root still in the ground undisturbed for a year or two, until the young plants taken off have become established and possibly started flowering. Or the old clumps of roots can be dug up entirely and then divided into sections after being dug. A good sharp spade is the best implement for this purpose.

Very often in dividing paeony roots a partial natural division may be found in the clump. By working the spade carefully where this partial division is sometimes seen, any unnecessary mutilation or cutting of the roots can be avoided. At any rate when cutting up a clump of paeonies it is best to be sure of having from three to five or six crowns or buds on each division. These divisions or sections will often give some flower the first season, if the divisions are not too weak and small. The soil should be packed firmly around the roots, leaving about half an inch of loose soil over the tops of and around the crowns after they are planted. A mulching of well-rotted barnyard manure about an inch in depth over and around them will be of great benefit. This should, however, not be put on until later about the middle of November or before hard frosts set in. This manure will serve the purpose of a fertilizer if forked in around the plants in the spring.

The same rule and methods regarding

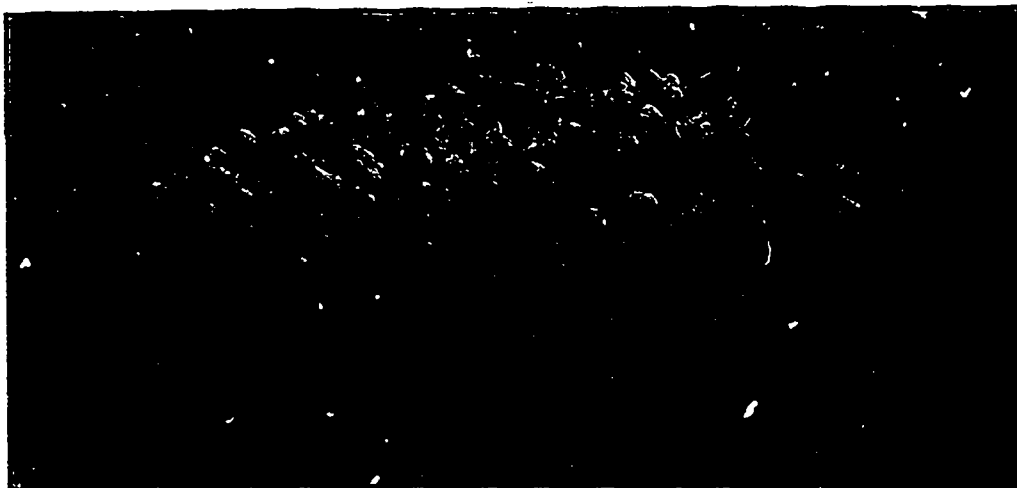
dividing and transplanting paeonies will apply very closely in dividing and transplanting Dicentras, Corydalis, and German Iris, except perhaps that the last-named should only be mulched very lightly, if at all.

PLANTING BULBS

Outdoor spring flowering bulbs include Dutch hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, crocus, snowdrop, scilla, Chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow), and Leucocorum vernum (Snowflakes). The Fritillaria Imperialis or Crown Imperial can also be included in this list. The best time to plant all of these bulbs is about the second or third week in October. They may be planted later on until hard frosts set in, but late planted bulbs do not, as a rule, give as good results as those planted earlier.

The Crown Imperials should be planted in groups three or five inches below the surface of the soil and six or eight inches apart. These last-named are tall growing, two or three feet in height. Dutch hyacinths, tulips, and narcissus should be planted so that the tops of the bulbs are from three to four inches under the surface of the soil and from four to six inches apart, whether planted in groups, rows, or massed in large flower beds. Crocus snowdrop, scilla, Chionodoxa, or Snowflake bulbs should be planted about three inches deep and about three inches apart. I have found that all bulbs are best not planted too deep in heavy soils, in light soils they may be planted the full depth stated. Strawy manure or some similar material four or five inches in depth may be placed over bulbs late in November, after the ground has been frozen slightly. Green pine boughs placed over them will also serve as a protection for bulbs.

The following are good varieties of bulbs to plant:



A Bed of *Hydrangea paniculata* as Grown in Victoria Park, Galt, Ont.