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# THE CANADIAN



## HORTICULTURAL

## MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE MONTREAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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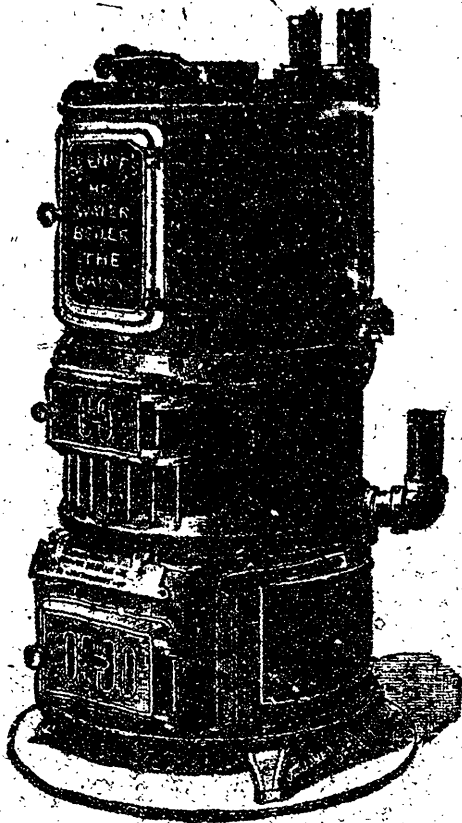
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THE EXHIBITION.

The Montreal Horticultural Society's Annual Exhibition of plants, fruits, flowers and vegetables, will be held this year on the 7th, 8th and 9th Sept., in two large tents, at 2455 St. Catherine Street. The price of admission will be 25 cents during the day, and 10 cents in the evening after 5 o'clock. The directors have secured the services of the Victoria Rifles Orchestra to play during the afternoons and evenings, and this alone should be the means of attracting a large audience. There will also be special illuminations and other attractions during the evening.

The Exhibition itself promises to be one of the best held in the history of the Society, and there is no doubt but the Association will sustain its well-earned reputation and bring forward an exhibition equal to those of recent years, held in conjunction with the Montreal Exposition Company, and which were unanimously pronounced by all who saw them to be undoubtedly the best feature of the entire show.

The vacant lots where the exhibition is to be held are admirably suited for a flower show. They are on the north side of St. Catherine Street, between Drummond and Mountain Streets, adjoining the confectionery store of Alex. Scott, and Ogilvy's dry goods establishment. This part of the town is well suited for exhibitors bringing along tender plants and flowers, and the large gate in rear of lot will allow of wagons laden with exhibits to enter and be unloaded with little trouble. The President's prize will this year consist of a handsome silver trophy and will be awarded to the amateur exhibitor winning the largest aggregate of points in

the plant and cut-bloom sections open to amateurs only. A first prize will count three points, a second prize two points and a third prize one point. The following staff of eminently qualified judges were unanimously appointed by the directors :

PLANTS—(Open), and Cottage Gardens—Mr. G. Copland, McGill Botanic Gardens.

PLANTS—(Amateur and Juvenile Members').—Mr. Jonathan Brown, Dorchester Street.

FRUIT.—Rev. Robt. Hamilton, Grenville, Que., and Mr. C. P. Newman, Lachine Locks, Lachine.

CUT BLOOM.—Mr. W. M. Ramsay, Merchants' Bank of Canada.

VEGETABLES.—Mr. McDuff Lamb, University Street.

Special prominence will again be given to the exhibits from the juvenile members, and two prizes will be given to each class, making fourteen prizes to the schools with each class represented. Last year ten prizes were given to the schools with entries in each class.

#### COTTAGE GARDEN COMPETITION.

Following are the entries in this year's Cottage Garden Competition :

SUBURBAN—J. M. Nelson, Lansdown Ave., Westmount ; E. K. Watson, Lansdown Ave., Westmount ; Thos. Williamson, Strathmore, P.Q. ; Mrs. J. Major, Lachine ; Geo. Jeffrey, Petite Côte.

URBAN—Mary Gardner, 43 St. Luke St. ; E. N. Lovelace, Elm Ave. ; Mrs. Hurly, 262 St. Luke St. ; Alphonse Leclerc, 290 University St. ; Mrs. E. W. Mudge, 22 Chomedy St. ; John Marsh, 4 Amherst Park, Amherst St.

## THE INFLUENCE OF PARKS ON THE CHARACTER OF CHILDREN.\*

As the infirmities of age deprive me of the pleasure of taking an active part in the exercises of the convention, I have been asked by my friend, Mr. Loring, to prepare a paper for the occasion which he has kindly offered to read.

I recognize the propriety of the demand in consideration of the part I have taken in the construction of numerous parks in various cities of this country, but I feel a timidity in speaking on the subject for two reasons; first, that I have preached so long on the same theme that I fear I may tire you with a repetition of old sermons, and secondly, that I have been so long out of the world that I know nothing of the present state of the Art, the practice of which was my chief source of interest and pleasure during my active years. Therefore, if my words fall upon your ears like "a voice from the tomb" I can only promise it shall not utter a "doleful cry," but rather a voice of glad thankfulness that I have been permitted to aid in the construction of works, here and elsewhere, whose value to the health and happiness of countless generations is beyond estimate.

Whatever new devices may have been contrived to increase the attractive interest of the Parks of any city, the grand principle remains unchanged, that they must be founded on a love of nature, and their object is weakened or defeated by the introduction of artificial decorations which conflict with natural laws. Do not understand me as saying that I would exclude works of art in scenes where they are appropriate to the adjacent surroundings. On boulevards, for instance, which are lined with residences whose architectural elegance is enhanced by the presence of trees and shrubs, and flowers and grass, the introduction of statues and artistic fountains is appropriate, and it is equally so in those portions of the park

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\*Paper read at the Minneapolis Convention of the American Park and Outdoor Art Association. By H. W. S. Cleveland, Chicago.



which are expressly intended to afford entertainment to crowds of visitors. But the primary object of all parks is to give to the citizens, whose lives of necessity are passed in the din and throng of the streets, the occasional relief of the quiet seclusion of rural scenes from which artificial decoration is excluded. And this to man becomes the more onerous from the modern tendency toward city life, and the excitement attendant upon the pursuit of wealth.

It seems to me that few people fully realize the value of parks for children, and above all for the children of the poorer classes. The rich man may have his country seat, or his summer residence by the sea shore or in the mountain, but think of the great mass of the laboring population whose children are growing up to fill the places of the present population, and many of whom may be the rich men and the rulers of the future. We claim it is the chief blessing of our country that its highest offices are open to all classes alike, but does not that fact carry with it a responsibility we have no right to shirk? It is a sufficient answer to my question to point to our free schools and the obligation of every parent to send his children to them unless his means enable him to educate them by a more costly method. But it is needless to cite examples, our own history furnishes, to prove that the most important part of every man's education is acquired out of school, and the inequality of the advantages of the different classes in the opportunities afforded them is too obvious to need pointing out. Can any one doubt the value of parks in the education of children who are born and bred in crowded tenement houses which are the (so-called) homes of thousands of the inhabitants of every city? I do not, of course, presume to say that the evil influences to which they are exposed can be wholly counteracted by the contrast afforded by scenes of natural beauty. But long and careful observation has served to convince me that the effect upon the mind of a child is such as can hardly be imagined by any one who has not carefully observed it. I was first led to reflect upon the subject many years ago by observing a man who was leading a cow in the streets of New York. He had brought her by steamboat from some point on the North River and, as he told me,

was taking her across the city to ship her on one of the Sound boats. She was a beast of rare blood and beauty and the attention she excited led me to follow her. As she passed that classic locality known as Five Points a shout was raised by the host of little gutter snipes who swarmed the street and trooped after her with wonder and delight. A casual observer would probably only have laughed at the spectacle, but it seemed to me to have a deep significance. "Here," said I to myself, "are thousands of children whose lives are passed amid the scenes of squalor and vice. They have never seen anything more attractive, and the sight of a cow being led quietly through the streets is to them an amazing novelty. What would be their emotions if taken into the country and allowed to compare the beauty of nature with those of their daily surroundings?" How few of us realize that every one of those wretched little ragamuffins is growing up either to be a blessing or a curse to the community; he may prove a benefactor to his race, or he may become a thief or a murderer. Much depends upon the impressions he receives in the years of his childhood, and is it not a peremptory duty devolving upon us to let him see that life has something better to offer to him than such misery as is his daily lot?

Need I say more? Is it not obvious that the parks of a city are as essential to its moral health and vigor as the vital organs of its inhabitants are to every individual?



## HOW TO GROW MUSHROOMS.

Procure fresh horse droppings in as large a quantity as possible, shake out the longest straw and add to the pile one third its weight of new loam, inter-mixing thoroughly. The compost should be kept under cover, so as to prevent it from wetting by rain, until a sufficient quantity has been collected to make a bed of the desired size.

In making a bed, spread out a layer of the material thus prepared from three to four inches deep and of the required dimensions as to length and width. Tread or stamp this layer until it is quite firm, and add others in the same way until the bed is ten or twelve inches in depth.

The temperature of this compact mass of soil and droppings will in a few days rise to 100° or over, as may be ascertained on plunging a thermometer into it, and then gradually decline. On going down to the 90° mark it will be in a proper condition for spawning, and this is accomplished by making holes three inches deep and twelve to fourteen inches apart in the bed with a hard trowel, inserting therein pieces of brick spawn about two inches square and replacing the compost.

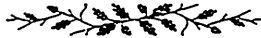
On the completion of this operation, it will be found necessary to level the surface again, and the bed should also be made as firm as before spawning. About one week later apply a layer of loam one and a half inches thick to the surface, smoothing and stamping it lightly with the back of a spade.

The temperature and moisture of the mushroom house must now be given daily attention, maintaining the former at from 60° to 70° with a moist air. The bed will not need water until the mushrooms appear five or six weeks after spawning, and when they show on the surface as large as peas, a light watering should be given with water heated to about 100°.

I find the best temperature of a mushroom house to be 60°, with the air moist to a perceptible degree only. The surface of the

bed should also be kept moist, applying water when necessary by means of a watering pot with fine sprinkler or a hand syringe, using water never below 80°. Air should be admitted to the house from the top, and must always be under control at a temperature never below 45°. Upon entering or leaving, all currents of air likely to pass over the surface of the bed should be guarded against.

The dry spawn will become active fourteen days after insertion in the bed, but in cases where the bed has been allowed to get dry after the cessation of fermentation—which often happens in the absence of close attention—when two weeks have elapsed since spawning, apply water through a fine sprinkler until it penetrates the bed to a depth of two inches, with the water at 90°, at the same time increasing the house temperature 10°. Mushrooms will then appear in four or five weeks.—JOHN G. GARDNER, in *American Florist*.



## DISEASE OF THE EASTER LILY.

It is reported that the British Government has sent an authority from Kew to Bermuda for the purpose of investigating the cause of the disease in *Lilium Harrisii* Lily, and if possible to take steps that will insure a cure. This expert believes that the bulbs are infested with a mite or insect, due to the stock being so forced as to weaken the vitality of the bulbs. He claims that the practice of applying patent fertilizers in great quantities, has a great deal to do with the propagation of the disease, and that the mite thrives in soil overfertilized with chemical manures.

The Bermuda crop has been forced to such an extent that the scales employed for propagation have been too weak to produce strong bulbs. Stock might be produced from some other source Holland for example, which would be healthy enough to resist the pest.

## IN AN OLD-FASHIONED FLOWER GARDEN.

There is always something in the old-fashioned garden that pleases us more than the annual flowers from a greenhouse do. This is largely because of memories which the permanent ones of the garden awaken. Coming to us year after year they bring to us circumstances we are pleased to remember. In early summer and late autumn such gardens are replete with flowers. At midsummer it is not easy to find a good variety to help towards a bouquet. It is therefore with pleasure that I append a list of a few good ones which I have just observed flowering in an old-time border of flowers.

My first notes record several bergamots, monardas, as they are called. There are *didyma*, the scarlet; *purpurea*, the purple; *mollis*, pink, and *fistulosa*, lilac, all good for this season for their flowers and their sweet-smelling leaves.

The common perennial phloxes are now in bloom. These, to do their best, need rich ground, moisture and a shady place. With the reverse of this the flowers quickly fade. Some of the newer sorts of phlox are very handsome. Nearly all veronicas are out of flower, but one of the newer ones, *Hendersoni*, is just in its prime. This has spikes of large blue flowers, larger than those of any other one I know of.

The common milkweed, *Aselepias cornuti*, is sometimes a nuisance in old meadows, but the lovely yellow-flowered one, *tuberosa*, is one of the most attractive of plants now in flower. Another species, *incarnata*, bearing pinkish-white flowers, helps along the midsummer display. A foreign kind, *curassavica*, with yellowish-orange flowers, is another good one. *Anthemis tinctoria*, is a yellow daisy-like flower, which blooms from June till September; and if decayed flowers are cut away as fast as they appear, the new ones continue to come in greater profusion.

Much the same can be said of the two coreopses, *grandiflora* and *lanceolata*. Both are yellow, and bear their flowers on long

stems, which is a valuable characteristic where flowers are desired for ornamenting tables when placed in vases.

I saw to-day a whole lot of the lovely large blue larkspur, *Delphinium formosum*, in full bloom. The plants I found had been raised from seeds sown in late fall, in a greenhouse, and had been planted out in spring. This is worth remembering, as if sown in spring there are no flowers until the second summer. Hollyhocks are of the same character. A few will flower when sown in the fall, but it is better to give them two full seasons to get the best results.

The old purple foxglove makes a grand display in the early part of the month. This does best treated as a biennial, though it is something of a perennial. The order to which it belongs contains pentstemons, monkey flowers, snapdragons and many other beautiful and useful hardy plants. As with nearly all perennials, if it can be given a little shade, its flowers are much more satisfactory.

The large-flowered bell-flower, *Campanula grandiflora*, in both white and blue variety, is among the most attractive of all. The two are tall-growing, growing three feet in height, and they bloom profusely. Sometimes one half of a flower will be blue, the other white, making a curious spectacle.

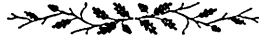
Among day lilies, there is one, *Funkia subcordata*, a very light blue, just going out of flower. In a short time, a very late one, with deep-blue flowers, *lanifolia*, will make its display, the last one of the season.

In a quite damp, partly shaded place, double English daisies are now in fine display. These, I believe, were from seeds sown in early winter. These and common wild English ones, as well as the primrose of that country, will survive ordinary winters here if a slight covering of forest leaves be placed over them.

Another old favorite rarely met with now-a-days is the lavender. It stands both summer and winter well, and as a reward for the space occupied, blooms profusely through the midsummer months.

A large-growing but beautiful perennial is the *Cassia marilandica*, a species of the native sensitive plants. There are three natives of these plants, but this is the best. The

plant grows so bush-like that some nurseries catalogue it among their shrubs. It makes a height of three to four feet, bearing clusters of yellow flowers on the ends of the shoots. On account of reputed medicinal qualities, these plants are called wild senna.—JOSEPH MEEHAN, in *Country Gentleman*.



## OUR WILD FLOWERS.

It is seldom that our native plants, especially our wild flowers, are appreciated to the extent they deserve to be. They seem to be almost despised because they are so common, and yet many of our commonest flowers are among the most beautiful and ornamental, even those we see the most and think least of. It has surprised many on going through European parks and botanic gardens to see the way the wild flowers which we neglect are cared for and appreciated, plants which we have looked upon as weeds all our lives. No doubt they would be thought more of if they were rarer, and our common daisies, our asters and our golden rods would be admired and grown if they were purchased at big prices from colored plates of catalogues.

While our native shrubs and perennial plants have been so neglected, our native trees have met with better luck, and are now almost exclusively used in ornamenting our streets, avenues and parks. The best landscape gardeners have come to know their merit, and no nursery stock is now complete without a full assortment of native trees, but few growers catalogue our hardy annuals or perennials.

For indoor cut flower decoration our common flowers are admirably suited, and it would be hard to imagine a more beautiful bouquet or vase than one made up of our ordinary daisy, wild aster or golden rod, nicely arranged with native fern and perhaps wild berries. In many places the golden rods in their season furnish a most valuable wedding decoration. There is wonderful pleasure and satisfaction to be derived from our every-day wild flowers if we only stop to admire them, and there is always something new and interesting to collect every time we stroll through field or wood.

## HOW TO GROW FREESIAS.

The sweet-scented Freesia should be known to everyone admiring flowers, writes F. P. Livingston in *How To Grow Flowers*, for no other bulb produces blooms of such exquisite fragrance. A few plants will fill an entire house with their delicate odor, charging our heated rooms, in winter, with the fragrance of a summer breeze.

The Freesia belongs to the Iris family, and comes to us from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. and like most plants from that section, it grows and blooms during winter, and rests through most of the summer. There are two kinds in general cultivation : Freesia Refracta Alba, white, and Freesia Leichlini, yellowish, with orange blotch in throat. Both are beautiful, but the former is the more generally planted.

Procure the dry bulbs from your florist and commence planting them in pots as early as the latter part of July. Plant a few each month for succession of bloom until October. Five or six-inch pots are about the right size, and should contain eight to ten bulbs each. First add some drainage material, such as broken crocks or small pieces of brick placed in the bottom ; fill up a little over half full with soil, place in bulbs and space them an equal distance apart. Now fill remainder of pot with soil and press down firmly, leaving about one inch of space from rim. Use the same quality of soil as used in potting Tulips or Hyacinths, prepared from rotted sod with a little well decomposed manure added. Water well and plunge the pots in the ground in a cool, shaded situation, or, if more convenient, place them on ashes, and pack same in spaces between the pots. For some years I have placed them in a cool, well-ventilated cellar, only keeping them slightly moist.

Do not place any litter or other covering over the top of pots, as is usually done with Tulips and other bulbs, as it will cause them to bleach and grow too weak in the stem. If set outside, a few of the first light frosts will not hurt them, the cool nights only causing them to grow more stocky. On the approach of hard, freezing



weather, Freesias must be protected by cold frames, well banked and covered. They may remain in these cold frames for a long time without injury, and brought into heat when desired for blooming. As soon as the stems commence to lean to one side they must be supported by a number of slender stakes placed around the pot near the sides. These should be connected by a string passing clear around the pot, thus supporting the delicate stems. From this time on they will need plenty of water, and if set at a window, they should be frequently turned so as to grow symmetrical. This latter applies to all house plants, which too often grow to one side. As the flower buds appear, weak manure-water may be given. A well-grown Freesia should be nine or ten inches tall, with three or four stems, containing six to eight flowers each.

Freesias do not deteriorate by forcing, as Hyacinths or Tulips, so they should be encouraged to grow after blooming. Continue to give water, but gradually withhold until the bulb has finished its growth. In this manner they can be forced from year to year. They are increased by bulblets and by seed. In July shake all the earth from pot and separate the small bulblets from the old bulbs. These may at once be repotted and will bloom the second year. Where a great quantity is to be grown it is more convenient to plant them in rows in the cold frame, giving the same treatment as Pansies, etc. Do not put the sashes on too early in the fall—let them get a little frost first. These will make fine bulbs and will bloom the next season. In this way the bulbs may be increased to three times their number every year.

The seed may be sown in rows four inches apart in a cold frame in July. Keep the sashes on, and shade until the seedlings come up. Then remove the sash and place a lath shading over the frame for a month or six weeks, after which no covering will be needed until the sash is replaced in November. Water must be supplied when needed, and all weeds must be removed and ground loosened up. Bank up tight when cold weather comes, although they will stand three or four degrees of frost when grown in this way. They will stay green and keep growing all winter, but will go to rest during the summer.

In July lift the bulbs and pot them ; return to frame and plunge the pots, giving little water until well started, and keep growing right along. They should bloom the following winter. A greenhouse or conservatory in the winter without Freesias is surely a deserted place. By all means procure the bulbs at once and grow the most fragrant of all bulbs, the beautiful and delicate Freesia.



### RAISING LARGE TREES.

Trees from 25 to 50 feet high and with trunks 9 to 18 inches in thickness can be raised in order to change the grade of the ground at no great expense, and in such a way as to cause little check to future growth. Attach two strong ropes to the top of the tree, so that each can be drawn in different directions. Dig a trench around the base of the tree, making the circle sufficiently wide to include a good proportion of the tree's roots. When dug to the required depth the earth is undermined from one side, and a block set under the ball of roots as a sort of fulcrum. The rope is then drawn to the same side as the block, and the result is the raising of the roots on the opposite side. Earth is then placed under this mass of lifted roots, and the opposite rope is drawn and earth placed as before. By drawing the tree backwards and forwards by the aid of the different ropes and by placing more earth each time, the tree is soon elevated to the desired height and rests on a well packed mound of good earth. When pulling on one rope it is a safe precaution to have the opposite one hitched to another tree or strong stake, in order to prevent the tree from being pulled down altogether.

## PONDS AND LAKES FOR AQUATICS.

Too often, unfortunately, we may still see ponds of circular or oval shape with banks secured by stone walls or pebbles set in cement concrete that show above the water line. This may do for the horsepond of a farmyard, but it will not do for a water garden. If it is worth our while to make a pond at all it should be also worth our while to pay attention to nature's most simple laws with regard to beauty, and when an artificial pond shows in its shore line curves that could not possibly have been formed by nature the effect is repulsive. When writing of water in the rock garden I mentioned that a pond in most cases should be treated as an expanded streamlet, and the curves of large ponds or lakes give no exception to that rule. A natural pond with a bold projection or promitery on one side will almost invariably show a still bolder recess on the opposite shore, and vice versa. If such projections are covered by vegetation that hides a portion of the water, so that from no point the whole of the surface can be seen, the effect will be all the more picturesque. A good example of this may be seen in the lakes at Birkenhead Park, which, in consequence of this partial obscuring of the water from certain points, appear much larger than they really are.

In the case of a broad stream or river flowing through some meadows within sight of the house, the simplest way to produce a pond or lake would, of course, be to widen the stream or river to the size that would seem most desirable. But if the pond and its banks are intended for a water garden this course would not be the most practical if the flow of water is at all rapid, because, after heavy rains, when the river swells and floods its surroundings, there would not only be a danger of the water plants being carried away, but silt, gravel and river mud would quickly fill up all recesses and thus

practically destroy the beauty of the pond and choke the plants. The best plan in such a case is to "tap" the river, conduct the water intended for the supply of the pond some distance away from the original stream, and finally let overflow rejoin the river at a lower level. If the water is first conveyed in pipes, and made to flow in an opposite direction to that of the river, the danger of chokage by mud or silt will be entirely avoided. When laying out some grounds at Great Marlow a few years ago I made a most successful pond in the way just described, by tapping the river Thames. In most cases it may also be advisable to cover the mouth of the pipe by wire netting to keep out water rats and other vermin. There is no reason why water drawn in this way from a river should not, at some little distance from the "tapping place," reappear in the shape of a natural streamlet before filling the pond, and here and there its water-soaked banks might become the home of all kinds of most suitable as well as beautiful plants. In like manner the water emerging as overflow from the pond might form a picturesque brook of any desirable length with or without waterfalls before rejoining the river.

In a case like the preceding, where the water supply would be practically unlimited, the comparatively small waste of water through absorption by the banks, and perhaps also by the bottom of the pond, would hardly need comment. But where the supply is scarce and the bottom and sides of the pond are of a porous nature, the latter would have to be either "puddled" or covered with concrete to prevent waste. Concreting on a large scale is always expensive work, and clay puddle, especially on the sides of banks, is very apt to be injured by water rats, to crumble away after a severe frost, or be washed away by the ripples of water moved by wind. Sometimes it so happens that the sub-soil consists at a certain depth of a tough clay which no water could penetrate, but that the soil at the required water level is of so porous a nature that it would not hold water. Naturally the first impulse in such a

case would be to excavate the pond to the depth of the natural layer of clay, and then form banks of clay puddle at the sides. But there is a much cheaper and more simple plan. Instead of excavating to the clay, excavate only to a depth sufficient for growing aquatics (say two or three feet), and instead of piling up clay against the sides leave the sides untouched as much as possible, preferring the natural slope of the ground to dip below the water line. To prevent waste percolation surround the whole pond by a trench about eighteen inches wide excavated to the depth of the natural clay sub-soil. The whole of this trench should then be filled with clay-puddle to a height extending slightly above the water level, filling up the remainder with ordinary soil, so that the whole is completely hidden. The trench should not be close to the shore line, neither need it follow the curves of the shore, but as it would be invisible when finished, it might even be perfectly straight in some places if this would be a saving in distance. The advantages of this system are obvious. The water-tight puddle would be situated where it would neither wash nor crumble away, But the greatest advantage is that the ground intervening between the trench and the actual outline of the pond would be continuously soaked, and a natural bog for plants that love the waterside is thus formed without much trouble.

Very frequently a pond most suitable for a water garden can be formed by throwing a dam across a valley traversed by some streamlet. Generally this is effected by a straight or slightly curved wall, which is afterwards covered with soil, turf and plants with an opening from which the overflow water may emerge as a waterfall. As a rule such an opening is left near the middle of the dam and looks most unnatural, because the overflow emerges from what would be the broadest side of the pond. In nature this could scarcely ever occur. If we observe the natural formation of ponds, we find almost invariably that a streamlet becomes gradually wider and wider

till a lake-like expanse is formed ; it then almost just as gradually contracts, and finally emerges again as a narrow streamlet. If the dam has to be made it would therefore, be much more natural to have two walls gradually contracting till the desired outlet or overflow is provided. Any formal edging of stones or any other material around a pond would at once deprive the latter of all natural appearance, however carefully it might have been constructed. The best way of securing the shore line against crumbing and washing is to round off all edges till they form a gentle slope, and then lay down long pieces of good tough turf, which should be continued quite a foot below the water mark, and should be further secured by long sticks driven firmly through them and into the bank.

Islands in ponds should be arranged with due regard to such formations in nature. In natural lakes we find them not often in the middle, but generally just beyond a promontory, where they would justify the idea of having been severed from the mainland by the breaking through of the water, or if they are of a rocky nature by upheavals from the bottom. A circular mound of soil in the middle of the pond generally looks as ugly as can be, and most unnatural.—*F. W. Meyer, in The Gardeners' Magazine.*



## NOTES FROM A KITCHEN GARDEN

Some years, when growing our special money crops, which are small fruits, celery and cauliflowers, writes W. H. Jenkins in *Country Gentleman*, I have somewhat neglected the kitchen garden. I thought it more profitable to give my whole time to these money crops and purchase the vegetables for family use which I did not grow in the market garden; but I found I made a mistake, and I now think it pays me to hire the extra help needed

to care for the kitchen garden. From a financial point of view, I think with our methods of culture I can grow these vegetables cheaper than I can buy them, and if one depends on buying them, both the quality and supply are matters of uncertainty. For the last three years I have given considerable attention to the kitchen garden, and now I believe that no one so well enjoys all the fruits and vegetables in their season as the one who grows them. Our garden has saved me many dollars in meat and grocery bills, and to my taste, our table has been better furnished.

We begin in the spring with early radishes and lettuce grown under glass, then follow succession crops grown in open ground, early onions, spinach, etc. Next asparagus, soon followed by early peas. I now always plan to have an abundant supply of peas from the earliest to the latest. I have now no use for brush as a support for peas, but use wire netting. For the early dwarf varieties I use netting two feet wide, and for the later and taller-growing kinds, netting from three to four feet wide. I set posts every ten feet, nail it to them, and when through with it, take it down and roll it up. We begin to pick peas the last of June, and as fast as the vines are picked they are used for mulching between rows of early vegetables. Here is a point that is valuable to the market gardener, to use his pea vines to mulch early celery and other crops.

There is nothing else in our kitchen garden that we value more than the plat of lima beans. As most people know, the quality of the limas is much better than that of the bush beans, and they are so productive that a plat one rod square will supply an ordinary family. We begin to use them before they are fully ripe, the last of August or just after the late peas, and continue to pick the greenest pods until frost, when the ripe ones are picked, giving us a supply for winter. When properly cooked and served with cream, most people think it is a delicious vegetable. Some people do not grow the pole limas because of the work of obtaining and setting the poles. I have dispensed with poles almost entirely, using wire netting six feet wide to support the vines. The soil for limas should be made very rich with stable manure. When planting, I open a small fur-

row about two inches deep, scatter a little fertilizer over it, mix it with the soil, then drop the beans two or three inches apart in the furrow, and cover not over two inches deep. I set the posts along the row, and nail up the netting. With proper attention, the vines will entirely cover the netting, and will be an ornament to the garden.

For two years I have tried a plan of growing tomatoes with which I am much pleased. Soon after planting, instead of building a trellis to support the vines, I cover the ground between the rows thickly with brush, saved for this purpose when trimming the fruit trees. This makes a mulch around the plants, and supports them above the ground. I have tried the plan of allowing but one branch to grow and tying it to a stake, but I have not obtained earlier or better tomatoes than when using brush, as described, to support the vines. I get a better quality of tomatoes by fertilizing them with wood ashes.

Sweet corn is given quite a large place in the kitchen garden, and I plan to have a succession from the earliest to the latest. Cucumbers, melons and squashes I plant in sods, or berry baskets filled with soil, under glass about May 1st, so they get two or three weeks the start of those planted in open ground. The sets of white multiplier onions planted in the spring, as soon as the ground can be worked, are followed by the Barlett for green onions for the table until the larger varieties come in the fall. Lettuce we have in great abundance all summer; also early beets, turnips, radishes, with spinach and the mammoth dandelion for greens. Early in the spring the parsnips and salsify come in just the right time before early vegetables from the hot-bed and asparagus.

I am planting most of the small fruits in the kitchen garden. I want berries so near the house that one can pick them by going only a few steps from the door. With them so convenient, it requires but a few minutes to get them for each meal in their season. Strawberries, currants, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, plums and cherries are all growing within two or three rods of the kitchen door. My kitchen garden is located back of the kitchen on ground sloping from the house. The drain pipe from the kitchen empties near the



raspberries and blackberries, with the result of fine berries, even in times of drouth. I have also taken off a portion of the garden an experiment plat for testing new varieties of fruits and vegetables. In the future, this garden, caring for my poultry and overseeing the work in the market garden, in connection with some literary work, will occupy most of my time.



## BERMUDA EASTER LILY, OR LILIUM HARRISII.

The *Lilium Harrisii*, or Bermuda Easter Lily, as it is more popularly called, owing to its being so admirably adapted for forcing into flower at Easter time, writes Robt. Ross in an exchange, is without question the most beautiful and of the greatest value commercially of all the many varieties and species of the whole order of Liliaceæ.

This may seem to some a broad statement, but the immense popularity of this variety is shown by the statement of a prominent grower who estimates that of all the varieties of Lilies grown at least seventy-five per cent. of those forced are *Lilium Harrisii*.

The bulbs are grown to their greatest perfection in the Bermuda Islands, and the annual exportations of bulbs are, in the aggregate, quite an item in the commerce. While it is probably true that the bulbs could be just as successfully grown in other countries, or possibly in parts of this country, yet the wholesalers would, I imagine, look on stock from other points with the same suspicious eye that they do on home-grown Sacred Narcissus.

It is a matter to be greatly regretted just now to note the progress that the Lily disease is making. There seems to be the greatest difficulty in checking the ravages of this disease, which ruins every bulb which it effects. I am informed by the growers, or rather

their agents, that the crop this year is unusually short, the disease very bad and that bulbs are wholesaling at about double last year's rates. The consumer will undoubtedly, therefore, feel the rather stiff prices that will surely prevail on this class of bulbs this summer and fall.

The labor entailed in forcing the Bermuda Easter Lily is not great and the amateur with a fair amount of care can reasonably expect his labors to be well rewarded. There are a few points, however, that must be well guarded; one is the watering, to neither over nor under water, another the temperature and air.

As soon as it is possible to obtain them, pot the bulbs in a loose, rich soil. This can be prepared by adding to a good ordinary garden soil one-third of well-rotted manure. Use only that which has been thoroughly rotted and has a black appearance. A loose, porous soil is conducive to better results than one which is inclined to contain too much clay. A small quantity of finely chopped sod and some sand which, with the manure, should be carefully incorporated in the garden soil, will be beneficial to the compost.

If a bulb measuring seven inches in circumference is used, a pot six inches in diameter will be the correct size; if an eight or nine inch bulb, then a seven inch pot would answer better. Larger bulbs will require correspondingly larger pots.

As to the depth the bulb should be potted in the soil, let the top of the bulb be about one inch below the surface of the soil in the pot. A slight variance in this matter will not result disastrously, but it is safer to adhere to the advice of old growers who assert that about an inch is the correct depth. After the bulbs have been thus potted remove them to a frame out of doors, where they should be plunged (by plunging is meant to bury the pots in the ground up to the rim), thereby securing for the bulbs a cool and uniform temperature. Water each pot heavily so that there can be no question but that the water thoroughly moistens all of the soil in the pot. After this is done, cover the pots over with several inches of straw, to keep out the light and to prevent the soil in the pots from drying out. The location of the frame should be where the

temperature will be as low as possible and away from the direct sun and wind and their drying influences.

As soon as the bulbs show signs of starting above the surface of the soil, carefully remove a portion of the straw, and in a day or two more of it. Several days should be occupied in removing the covering, so as to accustom the tender tips to the light very gradually.

The soil in the pots will by this time probably be in need of more water, but the one watering should have sufficed for the entire time the bulbs remained under cover. If overwatered while covered, the bulbs are apt to rot. It is quite essential that the matter of watering be done very carefully, as the soil should never be allowed to become dry, nor should it be kept constantly soaked. Endeavor to strike a happy medium, which will vary considerably owing to surrounding conditions.

At this stage of the work the temperature out of doors will have fallen considerably, and it will be necessary to keep the plants in the greenhouse, the conservatory or the house. If you are fortunate enough to have one of the former, the temperature can be regulated easily, and little attention will be needed daily, until time for bringing the plant into flower. If the plants are to be kept in the house, select a place where the temperature will remain as even as possible and not drop too low at night. If possible, place the plants at first in a place where the temperature is lower than that of the ordinary living room—say about 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

When the plants are about ready to bloom, should it be desired to force them a little more and have them flower earlier, they can then be subjected to a higher degree of heat—say to 65 or 70 degrees, where they can remain until in full bloom. If the grower wishes to have the plants in full bloom at Easter time, he must strive to have the stalk well grown and the buds formed, so that they stand out well from the stalk, six weeks before Easter.

By lowering or raising the temperature the growth and development can then be retarded or advanced as desired. The giving or withholding of water will also control, to some extent, the time of flowering when the buds are well formed.

Barring the Lily disease, which practically spoils the plant, spotting and blighting the foliage, etc., the green fly is the only enemy of the Easter Lily. By exercising care to keep them down, should they make their appearance, little fear need be entertained of serious damage from the little pests. When the green fly is first noticed, fumigate the plants with tobacco smoke. If this is inconvenient or objectionable in the house, a tea may be made by steeping stems or leaves of tobacco in water. This tobacco-tea, or tobacco-water, as it is generally called, may then be sprayed on the foliage. It will be best to apply this at night and wash the foliage well in the morning before it is touched by the sun. Another good method of exterminating the green fly is to dust the plant well with tobacco-dust or snuff. This is most effectually accomplished when the foliage is damp. Tobacco acts as a fertilizer, and when used moderately is quite beneficial.

Probably some may inquire as to whether a large bulb will produce larger stalks and better flowers than smaller ones. As to this I will say that the florist uses small bulbs and gets splendid results, but I would not advise the amateur to buy bulbs smaller than what are known as seven to nine inches.



## HYACINTHS A FAILURE.

The Holland bulb crop for 1898, especially that of Hyacinths, is reported a failure. It is stated that it will be impossible to fill this year's orders for large sized bulbs when the time comes to execute them. The unfavorable condition of the crop is attributed to the severe frosts in February and March and the continual bad weather following. The leaves died down fully three weeks earlier than usual, at the time when the bulbs develop and increase in size. The Tulips will not suffer so much as the Hyacinths, but will not likely be as good as former crops.

## THE EMBELLISHMENT OF RURAL HOMES.

There are wild, waste places on almost every farm, unfit for cultivation, which could be converted at a small cost into most delightful and picturesque spots. Of course, all rubbish, such as dead limbs and trees, loose stones, etc., should be removed. Then endeavor to form a strong turf of grass. This is essential to secure the best effect. The next thing in order is to establish plants, trees and vines that are adapted to the location. Beautiful wild plants that may be found in the community should be used profusely. Every section has numerous wild plants equal in beauty to many in general cultivation. Plant these in soils and locations as much like their natural habitat as possible. Place them in out-of-the-way nooks, where they will surprise those who pass through the place. Perhaps vines can be used more efficiently in the beautifying of wild places. They are pretty in almost any location. Their twining, screening or pendulous nature generally renders them free from a stiff appearance which the other plants and trees possess when improperly used. For rather extensive places, the more vigorous growing vines should be used. Grapes, either wild or cultivated are always artistic when climbing over old trees, fences, stone piles and unsightly out-buildings. Clinton, Concord, Catawba and Herbemont are excellent cultivated varieties to use in wild places. Virginia Creeper and Boston Ivy are valuable vines for many purposes. Clematis, Wistaria, Akebia, Honeysuckle, and other vines may be used with good effect in wild places. A great variety of shrubs should be employed and should be planted in clumps, with the taller and larger ones in the rear of the lower types.

Most wild places contain a number of trees, but some can probably be added to advantage. We should use nut trees quite extensively. Many of them are very beautiful and the nuts make them doubly valuable in a grove. Nut trees should be planted for the children if for no other purpose. We recall with great pleasure the happy boyhood days spent in gathering chestnuts, hickory nuts

and walnuts. They made us love the farm the more for the enjoyment afforded us. We know a farmer who has ten acres of a fine chestnut grove, the land of which is unusually well adapted to fruit culture. His neighbors frequently ask him why he does not cut down the trees and set the land in fruit. The farmer always replies that the grove will be spared for his boys. He intends to provide home ties for the boys, which will prevent them from forming an early desire to leave the farm for a more interesting life in the city. A little thought and work will soon make a great change in most farm waste places. Let us endeavor to make each foot of soil on the place either useful or beautiful.—*Southern Florist and Gardener.*



### A GREAT WORK COMPLETED.

We noticed last year at some length (see issue of July 7, p. 530) the first two volumes of Britton and Brown's "Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions." We are now in receipt of the third and concluding volume, which contains "*Apocynaceæ to Compositæ—Dogbane to Thistle,*" with key of orders and families, and indexes of Latin and English names. Its ample pages, 588 in number, 10½ by 7 inches in size, nearly all contain two or three very clearly-drawn illustrations, the total of the three volumes forming an unequalled collection. The species figured in the whole work number 4162, comprising 177 families and 1103 genera. Eighty-one of these species, mostly western, were discovered or determined on while the work was going through the press, and are placed in an appendix, bringing up all well-established species in the area covered, to Jan. 1, 1898.

The English index, compiled by Judge Brown, is of great value and interest, including about 10,000 plant names and nearly 12,000 references to the illustrations, and embracing all plant names commonly used by pharmacists, druggists, horticulturists and plant collectors, or likely to be met with in botanical or current literature. No similar compilation has hitherto been published, many of the names are not to be found in general dictionaries, and for most

people this index, with its references, will afford the readiest means of plant identification.

It may be well to repeat that the authors of this noble work are Nathaniel L. Britton, Ph. D., emeritus professor of botany in Columbia University, and director-in-chief of the New York Botanical Garden; and Hon. Addison Brown, president of the Torrey Botanical Club. The publishers, Charles Scribner's Sons, have given their work the best of paper and typography, the letter-press, even in the smallest type used, being peculiarly clear and readable. The work now completed is one which every lover of nature and student of her floral treasures—every one in fact who takes an intelligent interest in vegetables—should certainly possess. The price, transportation prepaid, is \$3.36 per volume.—*Country Gentleman*.



### BLACK ROSES.

Evidently desirous of eclipsing the achievements of the producers of "green carnations" and similar floral monstrosities, a certain Russian botanist has been devoting himself to the cultivation of black roses. After having applied himself to this uncanny object for a considerable period, with a patience worthy of a better cause, he is reported to have achieved success, and now threatens to come to London and exhibit the results of his misdirected experiments. When he arrives, he will no doubt be invited to explain the purposes for which he considers that his sable blossoms should be utilized. Since he can hardly anticipate that they will be employed for table decoration or for personal adornment, it can only be supposed that he intends to recommend them for use at funerals. It is happily improbable, however, that English horticulturists will be anxious to disfigure their gardens by cultivating them even for that purpose. Nor is it at all likely that any political or other party will be induced to adopt them as a badge, or that "Black Rose Day" will ever take its place among the floral festivals of the calendar.—*London World*.

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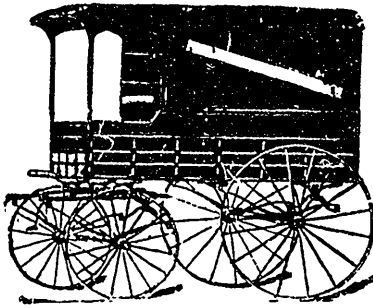
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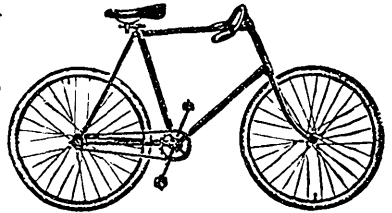
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