FOR STOCK FARMERS, BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Garden Items

FLOWERING SHRUBS BEAUTIFUL IN GARDEN

Flowering shrubs play an important part in the garden. Many of them are conspicuously beautiful when in blossom, and fit into planned effects in combination with flowers, while before and after their flowering season they serve as a green background against which the annual and perennial flowering plants are displayed.

Such shrubs should be selected and placed in relation to other plants in the garden with as much care as needs to be used in placing a group of perennials, for their conspicuous appearance may easily spoil a picture into which they do not fit. In general they should not be used in the public areas of home grounds except sparingly and with careful consideration of their effect. Indiscriminate planting of such shrubs as bridal wreath, hydrangeas, etc., in front yards is commonplace. It prevents the working out of a dignified and harmonious planting, and belittles the importance of the flowering shrubs, which are individually beautiful and deserve to be placed where their beauty will be properly set off.

These are shrubs which produce exquisite flowers too beautiful to be placed anywhere except in the foreground where all may admire them when in flower. Bechtel's double flowering crab is one, and Prunus triloba, or double flowering plum, is another. The new French lilacs are of this nature, and any one fortunate enough to possess them should make the most of them. Several beautiful new varieties of the old fashioned syringa, or philadelphus, have been developed by the French house of Lemoine. Bouquet Blanche, Virginal and White Lady are among the finest. All have white flowers, larger than the old fashioned type, and in some cases most fragrant.

The old fashioned rugosa roses are being supplemented by several improved types. These roses are very hardy. They grow into great bushes with dark green glossy leaves, and belong in the shrubbery border in location where their flowers will be effective.

Rose F. J. Grootendorst is a hybrid produced by crossing the rugosa and baby rambler roses. It produces double red flowers all summer. Rosa hugonis grows into a huge bush covered in May with single yellow flowers.

HOW TO DESIGN YOUR GARDEN

Although well designed gardens are becoming numerous, most homeowners are content with the layout of their home grounds which was given them by the subdivider. That is, they accept the sidewalks, back fence and side boundaries as sufficient delineation of their garden area, and proceed to plant little or much within this area without further attempt at design.

In some cases there is resistance to the idea of designing, a feeling that outdoors calls for informality and that any interference with haphazard arrangement is stiff and pretentious. It may be so, indeed, but on the other hand a really beautiful expression of the feeling of informality in a garden calls for a degree of designing skill much greater than formality and stiffness require.

A house might be built without design. The windows might be of varying sizes, and placed without consideration of balance. The rooms might be of irregular shapes and the contour of the roof unsubdied. Such a house would not be any more "informal" than perhaps a majority of our home grounds.

Continued on Page 13

THE OLD MAN DID

Who built them splendid buildin's,
Where grain an' hay are hid?
Who build that noble pigpen?
The ole man did.

Who built them bull-proof fences,
The pastur' fields amid?
Who cleared the cedar slashin'?
The ole man did.

Who built that noble mansion,
No mortgage for a lid?
Who planted out that orchard?
The ole man did.

He did it with affection,
It was his joy and pride,
And when his work was finished,
The ole man died.

THE YOUNG MAN DID

Who let the homestead crumble,
The lilac trees amid?
Who wrecked the old verandah?
The young man did.

Who let the caterpillars
Erect their tents unbid,
And spoil the splendid orchard?
The young man did.

The big barn wide and tall,
From its foundation slid,
Who saw it slowly fall?
The young man did.

Who let the rascal ragweed
The fertile fields amid,
Destroy the wholesome clover?
The young man did.

Who with an awful mortgage
The noble acres hid?
An' who destroyed the sugar-bush?
The young man did.

Who in his old Ford car
Went lickety skid and skid,
To ruin fast and far?
The young man did.

—R. K. Kernighan, in The Witness.

PLANT RASPBERRIES EARLY

When starting a raspberry patch or plantation the planting should take place very early in the spring, before the canes have budded out. This enables the plants to go forward without much shock. It is important that the soil be carefully prepared and well fertilized if one is to secure abundant crops.

Two general systems of planting are about equally popular. With the hill system the plants are set about four feet apart each way, while if the hedge row system is used the distance between the rows should be about six feet, in order to provide plenty of room for cultivation. If the plantation is of considerable size the best method to adopt is to run a furrow and set the plants in this. For a small plantation the hills may be opened with a spade with equal success.

As a rule there is greater danger of shallow planting than of setting the plants too deep. The crown should be at least four inches lower than the level of the ground in such a manner that the row of plants are in a depression. Cultivation later on will level up the soil. In setting the plants the earth should be trampled firmly above the roots so as to ensure proper contact between the soil and the small roots.

These are the recommendations of Mr. M. B. Davis in his bulletin on The Raspberry and Its Cultivation, issued by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. Many varieties have been grown with success at the Central Experimental Farm. The names and descriptions of the best of these, including black, purple and red raspberries are contained in Bulletin No. 114 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

Few things are more intellectually disconcerting than the manner in which science periodically upsets the structures based on our supposed finalities and this is specially true as to our concepts of matter. A couple of generations ago the molecule was understood to be the ultimate indivisible particle of matter. It at last gave place to the atom, smaller but making the same claim. In our own time the atom itself has been split up into the electron and the proton, and now the neutron—"little brother to the proton"—is suspected to exist. Will the process "proceed ad infinitum?"

The most powerful microscope at our command could not make such atomies visible, much less measure them; nor indeed had science any unit of measurement which could be applied. It became necessary to create such a unit; and the smallest measurement in common use, the millimetre, was therefore theoretically divided into one thousand "microns" whose symbol is the Greek character for "m" but which herein, for convenience, is represented by the contraction "mn." Small as this measurement is it is adequate only for visible particles and a further unit, the "millimicron" (which is herein referred to as "m-mn") was employed to denote the one thousandth part of the micron. Beyond this, science, somewhat haltingly it is true, measures by algebraic devices.

It is interesting to trace, step by step, the advances in our knowledge of the infinitely little, and to read of the dimensions of things beyond our limited sight. First, there is the "visible particle," visible that is, to the unassisted eye of a keen observer; this may be at its least, 10 mns., in diameter. The compound miscroscope increases the power of vision to the extent that "microscopically resolvable particles" may be viewed, with a diameter as small as 250 m-mns, or one-four-thousandth part of a millimetre.

This seems small enough in all conscience; but beyond the powers of resolution of the microscope there is a vast field which may only be explored by trained searchers, and in which smaller and still smaller particles are being discovered as methods of examination are being perfected. Thus we find as the next step the "secondary (or large) colloidal particles" held in suspension in a fluid "glue-like" as the name implies—and made visible by diffusion and the ultramicroscope. Such particles measure 5 m-mns upwards. Below these again are the primary colloidal particles, down to 2 m-mns; and the "molecular groups" as low as one m-mn across. These also are ultramiscroscopic objects.

Just at this point the layman gives up the chase of the "mighty atom." The ultramicroscope, a highly ingenious instrument, but with limitations, is the last means of research available to the ordinary observer. But the physicist keeps on. With the aid of the x-ray spectrometer he rounds up the molecule and the atom. The molecule, he finds, ranges from 0.5 to 50 m-mns, and the atom from 0.1 to 2.0 m-mns. Try to realize that 0.1 m-mn is the one ten millionth part of a millimetre!

The atom, as was stated in the opening paragraph, is now known to consist of a nucleus, the proton, round which revolve the electrons in a fashion that suggests a miniature solar system. The electron, which is "a minute disembodied charge of negative electricity" is examined "in an electric field while floating on an ultramicroscopic particle" and is found to measure the one-millionth part of the one millionth part of a millimetre, multiplied by two!

The measurement of the positively charged proton, which is examined by "Positive Ray and particles from radium," is asserted to be 10 to the minus-nineth power of a millimicron. Which is as much as to say it measures the one billionth part of the one billionth part of a millimetre. And we'll just let it go at that.

Indian Medicine Plants (10)

Solidago sp.: Species of the golden rod, or as we call them "yellow-weeds," were used by the tribes as a mark in their floral calas a "moxa" The stems were reduced to almost the condition of charcoal, and broken up into pieces of a few millimetres in length. These were piled on the skin over the affected part and fired. A counter-irritant!

Archillaea Millefolium L: Yarrow or Nilfoil. The Winnebago endar: "When the goldenrod is in bloom," they said, "the corn (zea) is ripe:"

Aster sp: One of the species was used by the Pawnee Indians as the best material for the remedy known name for this was Hangk-sintsh, meannig "Woodchuck tail," from the appearance of the leaf. Swellings were bathed with an infusion of the leaf, and a wad of the leaves placed in the ear was a cure for ear-ache.

Artemisia gnaphalodes Nutt: This and other species of Wild Sage were found in P. E. I., by Prof. Groh in 1926. These sages, called Pezhe-hota "Gray herbs" by the Omahas, were used both medicinally and ritualistically. A decoction of the leaves was drunk for stomach trouble and many other ailments. A bunch of artemisia was used as a towel. When an Indian had broken some taboo or had touched some sacred object, he was obliged to bathe with artemisia to clear himself of the consequences. An Indian related this instance of its use to protect in such cases: "Two horses ran wild in the camp and knocked down the "Sacred Tent." An old man caught them, rubbed them all over with wild sage and told the son of their owner: "If you let them do that again, the buffaloes will gore them!" When an Omaha chief was installed, the Sacred Pipes were to be laid on a bed of artemisia. The tops of the plants were burnt as incense by both pagan and christian Indians.

Arctium Minus Schk.: Burdock. This plant was introduced by white settlers, but was speedily adopted by the Indians for medicinal use. It was used by some of the tribes as a remedy for pleurisy.

The Muskrat in Trouble

The muskrat is becoming as great a nuisance in Europe as is the rabbit in New Zealand, or the gray squirrel in England. Each of thees animals was introduced to a new habitat by man, and coming to a place where its natural enemies were unknown, and where the climate was milder it has multiplied to such an extent as to become what may almost be termed a dangerous pest.

While travelling in Alaska in 1905, the Bohemian Prince Colloredo-Mansfield brought back a dozen muskrats, of which five survived. He liberated these on his estate near Prague and finding everything in their favor, the animals overspread Austria, and are now invading southern Germany, in spite of governmental precautions. The damage they occasion is by tunneling through banks of every kind, thereby bursting reservoirs, causing roads and dykes to subside, and flooding out mine workings. A yearly convention is attended by representatives of all the governments concerned, to consider the best means of meeting the danger for the next twelve months. And all this expense, both of damage and precaution, is traceable to one man's interference with "the balance of nature."

The muskrat is in trouble in Britain, too. The "Destructive Foreign Animals Bill" which has passed through the House of Lords, provides a penalty of $100 for turning muskrats loose, or allowing them to escape, and if the offence is in respect of more than four animals, then the penalty is $25 more for each extra animal. The "Fen Country" of England is the vulnerable point, for there the rivers and waterways are banked off from the rich black soil, which produces the finest crops.

In Scotland the muskrat has become naturalized over a wide area. The young trapper who first introduced the musquash—as he calls it—into that country, had rented waters at Feddal near Braco, and wired them in. In all countries there are ill disposed people and Scotland is not exempt; some miscreants tore up part of the wire and allowed some of the stock to escape. Now the animals are spread over a wide area in Perthshire, Fife, Dumfries and Kincardinshire.

There is a notion (in Scotland) that the muskrats have added corn (that is oats) and fish to their menu. This is in line with the observation that animals do change their food habits to some extent in new environments. However I have always been under the impression that the muskrat here, will vary his diet on oats if he can get them.

FEED THE BIRDS CONTEST

I really envy the prospective winners of the latest books donated by Mr. Robie W. Tufts. The Editor kindly forwarded me a copy to look over, and I find it is the much sought "Birds of Eastern Canada," by Dr. Taverner. This book is out of print, and is the more valuable on that account; and it is not likely to be reprinted, as the author is bringing out "The Birds of Canada" instead. This will include the birds of both East and West and will be more comprehensive but not so handy for our folk as the "Birds of Eastern Canada." These fine prizes, (of which there are three) give complete descriptions of all our birds and colored plates of 100 species. Personally I'd rather have this book than a money prize!

SOWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERENNIAL SWEET PEAS

Many people have become discouraged in trying to grow Sweet Peas but this beautiful flower should never be given up and will not be by new beginners if the following few simple rules are followed.

Just as soon as one can work in the garden without muddying ones boots the garden becomes fit to plant. One can determine this by taking handful of earth and squeezing it lightly. If it crumbles it is safe to plant, but if it compacts to a light ball, leave it alone for a few days. The best plan is to dig a trench about two feet deep and in the bottom put a layer of about one foot of well rotted manure or vegetable mold such as rotten leaves, pack this down and put a layer of six inches of good garden soil. Plant the Sweet Pea seed about two inches deep and about two inches apart in this and gradually, as the peas grow, fill in soil around the peas always showing them a half inch above the earth, then put a stake (larger than a broom handle) at each end of trench firmly in ground and stratch hen wire to the stakes for the vines to climb on. Do this and your friends and neighbors will sit up and take notice of the immense bloom from year to year. Before heavy frost cut the vines off about one inch above the ground and lay them over the stubs to gather snow. As soon as the vines show above ground the following spring you may burn the old vines

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Annuals

One of the many ways in which our home surroundings may be made beautiful in Summer, is by sowing the seeds of annual flowering plants in borders at the sides of the lawn, or by planting out annuals which have been raised indoors and also through their use in beds. Annuals may be more properly used in the narrow borders than in the wider ones, as perennials and shrubs are generally used in the latter.

The position of the beds and borders will be the first consideration. They should be open and sunny ones and so located that water will not stand for any length of time so they should not be in a depression from which water cannot drain. A freedom from the roots of trees and shrubs is also desirable for annuals will not grow well where these mat throughout the border.

The soil most satisfactory for the growth of annuals is a porous sandy loam, one which can easily be worked. Upon the manner in which the soil is prepared to receive the seeds, will largely depend success or failure. It is better to use a fork when preparng the border in Spring than the spade, as with the fork the soil may be broken much more finely, a condition which is necessary so that the fine roots of the annuals may readily penetrate and the growth of the plants be not checked.

If the soil has a reasonable residue of humus (decaying organic matter) from last year's application, it will not be necessary to apply and manure to the border in Spring. If, however, the soil does not contain enough, it will be necessary to apply short well rotted manure and to fork it in. Having forked the border the next step is to rake the surface very finely with a steel rake and to remove stones or anything likely to obstruck the growth of the plants. The finer the surface soil down to a depth of three or four inches, the better will be the growth of the annuals and the more beautiful the border.

The taller annuals should be sown at the back of the border, Those which are half tall or intermediate in height, in the middle and the dwarf kinds be sown along the front. Annuals, say, which are two feet in height may be considered tall, from 15 inches to two feet intermediate, and from 12 inches downward, dwarf.

If it is your desire to make a bed of annuals in your lawn and not a border at the side, the procedure will be different, as the annuals should properly be about the same height throughout the bed, and might even be sown with an individual variety. However, it is not proper to cut up your small lawn areas, and it will pay you to make a border rather than a bed.

The seeds in the patches should be sown evenly and thinly and should be covered very lightly with finely screened fertile soil by means of the rake or preferably by screening the soil over them. One-eighth to one-quarter inch will be sufficiently deep to cover the seeds except the larger ones such as Sweet Peas, which may be covered about one inch deep.

Generally in latitude 44 degrees, the locality of Toronto, the time to sow annuals is during the last two weeks of May, and at Montreal the last week of May and first one of June. On the west coast about six weeks earlier. If the soil is at all dry it should be carefully watered as soon as the seeds are sown, by means of a can with a fine sprinkler. The surface of the soil should never be so flooded as to disturb the seeds.

After germination, when the seedlings are from two to three inches high, they should be thinned out distances apart, according to their heights at maturity the taller ones being spaced a greater distance apart than the dwarf ones. In the rear, about 12 to 15 inches apart, middle ground 9 to 12 and front,—say, 4 to 9 inches apart. To this, of course, there are exceptions. If plants are set out, this will also be the approximate spacing.

Ageratum — The Floss Flower, useful for edging beds and borders of annual plants. Six inches. Blue, white. Transplant outdoors in late May. Half hardy.

Adonis—Crimson. One foot. Useful for front of border. Hardy.

Alyssum—Sweet Alyssum. Plant out in May. Sow outdoors in May and thin seedlings out somewhat. Useful for edging beds and massing in front of annual border. Hardy.

Antirrhinum — Snapdragon. Plant out in May, nine to twelve inches apart. Sow outdoors in May, thin seedlings forementioned distance apart. Height six to 36 inches. One of the most useful hardy annuals for beds or border.

Amaranthus — Valuable foliage plant for beds or borders. One to three feet. Leaves wonderfully colored. Plant out during late May. Half hardy.

Agremone—Prickly Poppy. Sow outdoors during May, thin out well. Thrty inches high. Flowers white, lemon. Poppy-like produced during July-August. Foliage very attractive, useful for massing. Hardy.

Aster—Chinese Aster valuable for beds and borders. Flower all season. Colors various. Plant out in May. Sow outdoors in May. Thin nine to twelve inches apart. Half hardy.

Calendula—The Pot Marigold. Nine inches high. Orange, salmon, yellow. All Summer and Autumn. Sow or plant outdoors in May, thin six to nine inches apart. Height about one foot. Useful in beds, borders and for cutting. Hardy.

Centauria— Variously called the Sweet Sultan, Corn Flower, Knay Weed. Blue, white, rose. Two feet high. Sow outdoors during May and thin out nine to 12 inches apart. Late Summer and Autumn. Hardy annual, splendid for cutting.

Chrysanthemums — Plant out in May. Sow outdoors later in month. Plant or thin nine inches apart. Height and colors various. Summer and Autumn. Good for midground of border, and for cutting. Hardy.

Clarkia— Of wonderful colors. Scarlet, orange, pink, white. About eighteen inches. July-September. Sow outdoors in May and thin out nine inches apart. Single and double kinds. Hardy annual.

Coreopsis — Coreopsis or Calliopsis, beautiful hardy annual of various heights. Of shade of orange, yellow and red. Useful for cutting or for border. They flower late Summer and August. Plant or sow outdoors in May. Plant or thin about nine inches apart.

Cosmos— Mexican aster. Useful for rear of annual border. Large masses are fine. The double varieties. Pink Pearl and White Pearl are splendid, also many single kinds. Three to five feet. Late Summer and Autumn. Half hardy annual. Plant or sow outdoors in May.

Dianthus — The Pinks. D. Heddemegii, single and double flowered. Chiefly crimson and other dark shades. D. Chinese, single and double in many colors. All wonderful for border. Height little more than one foot. All summer. Plant out in May, nine to 12 inches apart. Sow outdoors in May. Thin forementioned distances. Hardy.

Delphinium — Larkspur. Height 12 to 24 inches. Colors various, chiefly shades of blue. Splendid for beds and masses in border or wild garden. Plant out in May. Sow outdoors in May. Plant or thin nine to 12 inches apart. Hardy.

Eschscholtzia — Californian Poppy. Most lovely annuals of yellow, orange, scarlet, deep rose, single and double kinds about 15 inches high. For front of border or other position when plants of great brilliancy are required. Good for dry sunny positions. Sow outdoors in May. Hardy.

Gaillardia — Blanket Flower. Plant or sow outdoors late May. Plant or thin nine to 12 inches apart. Red, yellow. One to two feet high. Useful for border and cutting. Half hardy.

Godetia — Most beautiful plants for beds or border. Summer and Autumn. Twelve inches high. Plant or sow outdoors in May. Plant or thin 12 inches apart. Hardy.

Gypsophila — The Chalk Plant Baby's Breath. G. Elegans a lovely annual. White, rose, lilac. Summer and Autumn. Good for border. Unsurpassed for cutting. Hardy.

Helianthus — The Sunflower. Single and double. Yellow, orange, red. Tall for rear of borders. Miniature kinds for border and cutting. Sow outdoors in May, thin out 18 inches apart. Hardy.

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NEGOTIATING THE WAGE SCALE

Sir Austen Chamberlain told this one at a recent dinner. A Negro applied for a job and set forth his attributes without too much modesty. "All right," said the boss, "you can have a job, and as to salary—well, I'll pay you just whatever you're worth."

"Dat's no use to me, suh," returned to the applicant. "I'se gettin' mo' dan dat where I is now."

IN THE STUD

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