



Hints for the Florist.

"I deem it not an idle task,
These lovely flowers to rear,
That spread their arms as they would ask,
If sun and dew are here;
For simple wants alone are theirs,
The pure and common too—
The beauty of refreshing airs,
The gift of liquid dew.
Nay, 'tis no idle thing, I trust,
To foster beauty's birth—
To lift from out the lowly dust,
One blossom of the earth;
Where barrenness before had been,
A verdure to disclose,
And make the desert rich in sheen,
To blossom like the rose."

As the season for planting flowers and laying off ornamental grounds has come again, it is proper to give a few timely suggestions to the ladies, under whose superintendence is or ought to be, the delightful task of adorning their homes with the rich and varied colors and perfumes of the flower garden.

The following list of flowering shrubs, annual, biennial and perennial plants and vines, which we find compiled in the agricultural columns of the *German Town Telegraph*, embraces many of the choicest varieties—some of which, we believe, have not here been introduced. This list, if preserved, will be found useful to our lady readers, for future reference:

FLOWERING SHRUBS.

Pink Mezerion.
Dwarf double flowering Almond,
Double purple Tree Peony,
Chinese White Magnolia, (Conspicua),
Soulange's Magnolia,
Sweet-scented Magnolia, (M. glauca)
White Fringe Tree,
Garland Deutzia, (D. Scabra)
Broad-leaved Laburnum,
Rose Acacia,
Tartarian Tree-Honeysuckle, red and white,
Double white Hawthorn,
Double pink Hawthorn,
Flaegrant Clethra,
Oak-leaved Hydrangea,
Venitian Sumac, or Purple Fringe,
Buffalo Berry, male and female,
Siberian Lilac,
The Althea, or Hibiscus Syriacus,
Colutea Arborescens,
Chinese double flowering Apple,
Deutzia Gracilis,
All the Spiraeas,
Snowball, common though beautiful,
Dwarf Dogwood,
Pyrus Japonica,
Konymus, (burning bush)
Philadelphus, (Mock Orange)
Symphora,
Weigelia rosea.

PERENNIAL PLANTS.

Dicentra Spectabilis,
Plumbago,
White and Pink Phlox.

[There are from twenty to thirty common Phloxes, many of them dwarf, of beautiful colors and much admired.]

Companulas,
Chrysanthemums, (summer and fall),
Double Hollyhocks,
Paeonias, (white and red)
Iris, (pale blue, very fragrant),
Sweet William,
Valeriana.

CLIMBING SHRUBS AND VINES.

Some of the finest and hardiest climbing shrubs are the following:

Large flowering Trumpet Creeper,
Queen of the Prairie Rose,
Chinese Giacine, (Wistaria),
Double Purple Clematis,
Clematis Flammula, Florida and Siboldii,
Monthly Fragrant Honeysuckle,
Chinese Twining Honeysuckle,
Yellow Trumpet Honeysuckle,
Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle,
Japan Evergreen Honeysuckle,
Chinese Bignonia,
Virginia Creeper,
Periwinkle, (as a creeper for shady places.)

CLIMBING ROSES.

Queen of the Prairies,
White Multiflora,
Laura Davoust, (half hardy)
Baltimore Belle.

TRAILING ROSES.

Fellenberg,
Glory of Rosamond,
Monserosa,
Baron Prevost,
Noisette Superba.

MONTHLY ROSES.

Hermosa, pink,
Cels, bluish and pink,
Devoniensis, creamy white,
Archduchess, pure white,
La Reine, deep pink, very fine,
Baron Prevost,
Giant of the Battle, crimson,
Louis Philippe, red,
Souvenir, bluish,
Luxumborg, buff,
Queen of Lombardy, deep rose,
Saffrana, yellow buff,
Daily, light pink.

These will afford a succession of bloom throughout the season.

The ground for flower seeds should be light and rich and made as fine as possible. A few loads of fine vegetable and leaf mould from City Creek or some other canyon will be found admirably adapted to the growth of flowers.

Should the soil lack moisture, a shallow drill may be drawn, in which, after running a small stream of water through, the seeds should be planted—care being taken not to cover them too deeply. From one and a half to two inches will be found sufficient covering for most kinds.

It will be almost needless for us to state that, to successfully cultivate flowers, all weeds must be thoroughly eradicated. The watering pot will be found especially beneficial, if judiciously use, in facilitating the growth and adding to the freshness and beauty of the flowers.

The color of flowers, it is said, is greatly promoted by the application of charcoal.

A French amateur, in the *Paris Horticultural Review* states:

"About a year ago, I made a bargain for a rose-bush of magnificent growth, and full of buds. I waited for them to bloom, and I expected roses worthy of such a noble plant, and of the praise bestowed upon it by the vender. At length, when it bloomed, all my hopes were blasted. The flowers were of a faded color, and I discovered that I had only a middling *multiflora*, stale-colored enough. I, therefore, resolved to sacrifice it to some experiments which I had in view.

My attention had been captivated with the effects of charcoal, as stated in some English publications. I then covered the earth (in the pot in which my rose-bush was) about half an inch deep with pulverized charcoal. Some days after, I was astonished to see the roses which bloomed, of as fine a lively rose color as I could wish. I determined to repeat the experiment; and, therefore, when the rose-bush had done flowering, I took off the charcoal and put fresh earth on the pot.

You may conceive that I waited for the next spring impatiently to see the result of this experiment. When it bloomed, the roses were as at first, pale and discolored; but by applying the charcoal as before they soon resumed their rosy-red color. I tried the powdered charcoal likewise in large quantities upon my petunias, and found that both the white and the violet flowers were equally sensible to its action. It always gave great vigor to the red or violet colors of the flowers, and the white petunias became veined with red or violet tints. The violets (colors) became covered with irregular spots of a blueish or almost black tint. Many persons who admired them thought that they were new varieties from seed. Yellow flowers are, as I have proved, insensible to the influence of the charcoal."

There are several kinds of insects which are great pests to the cultivator of flowers, more generally infesting house plants, however, and for which a vigilant watch should be maintained in order to prevent their ravages.

The most common kind of these insects, says a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, is the green louse, which often completely covers the young and tender shoots of roses and other plants. These may easily be destroyed by inverting the pots over a tub of water or soap-suds, and immersing the plants, waving them gently to and fro. A soft brush will assist in removing them. It will be necessary to tie a piece of cloth over the soil in the pot, or use some other similar means to prevent the soil from falling out while performing this operation. The green fly may be destroyed in the same manner. In green-houses tobacco is generally used to fumigate the plants by burning in a furnace, but this is an offensive operation in the house. It may be performed, however, on a few plants at a time by taking an iron vessel of any kind, putting in a few live coals and a small quantity of moist tobacco, and turning over this and the plants a barrel or large box and allowing them to remain for some time.

There is another insect, more difficult to get rid of, which is frequently to be found on house plants. It is a species of *coons*, commonly known as the mealy bug. They are generally to be found in the axils of the leaves, and greatly resemble little wads of cotton. They cannot be removed by washing, but must be picked off by hand. This is a slow process, but it must be done when they first appear, or your plants will be ruined by them, as they increase rapidly.

These are the ordinary insect pests against which it is necessary to guard your plants. The red spider is also a nuisance. These are very small, in fact almost invisible, except to a close observer. Their presence may be inferred if the foliage appear yellow and sickly. On observing this, turn up the leaves and you will probably find the little rascals at work. They may be destroyed by profuse and repeated syringing of the plants, and particularly of the underside of the leaves.

Constant vigilance is necessary in the cultivation of flowers to enable him to check the operations of these insects before they have had an opportunity to accomplish much mischief.

The American Agriculturist:

ADAPTED TO THE FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

We have frequently noticed the *American Agriculturist* in our columns because we have deemed it one of the most readable, useful and practical journals published in the country.

The following, forwarded us by Mr. E. Sayers, will show the estimation in which it is held by our most experienced and scientific horticulturists. We reiterate what we have formerly said—the *American Agriculturist* should be in every family. An edition being also printed in the German language, Germans who cannot read English or who prefer, whenever practicable, the medium of their mother tongue, will find one dollar thus expended to be a profitable investment:

MR. EDITOR:—I have perused with a degree of satisfaction, the Feb'y number of the above monthly journal, which is really an interesting and practical work. Almost every page—thirty two in number—gives some useful and interesting hints to the young, the old, the untaught, the practical and the scientific gardener and agriculturist. Many of the articles are embellished with appropriate engravings, well drawn and executed in a masterly style. Indeed, the *Agriculturist* contains something that is interesting to almost all classes of people and especially to a new country, where information is needed on practical cultivation.

Mr. Dan'l Greaves, of Provo, I am informed, is an agent for the *Agriculturist*, and I trust he will obtain an extensive list of subscribers in the southern settlements, as the paper should be in the hands of every cultivator as a practical manual.

Subscriptions are received at the Deseret News Office from those residing in this vicinity.

The *Agriculturist* for April, received a week or two since, is not a whit behind, if, indeed, it is not a little superior to the best numbers we have seen. Since we have been a reader of it, this journal has steadily increased in the entertaining and useful character of its matter.

The *Country Gentleman* and *Genesee Farmer* also continue to come to us laden with practical information for the farmer, gardener and cattle-breeder.

In our opinion, a high toned, practical agricultural journal is the most zealous guardian of agricultural improvement and the farmer's most undeviating assistant.

Dr. Lee, in the *Southern Field*, well says: "The happiest life a rational man can lead, is one devoted to human progress and elevation. A mere money-getting machine is at best a low order of living mechanism. A steam engine or water wheel can do that kind of work; but it cannot cultivate either intellect or morals. We strive to make agriculture an intellectual pursuit; and in that behalf, all who think and reason about crops, the quality of land, its cultivation, domestic animals, manures, renovating plants, and farm management generally, are earnestly solicited to co-operate in a common effort to render agricultural thinking and reasoning the most fruitful of all human powers."

A gentleman of long experience and observation gives the following advice to farmers: "Take a good agricultural paper—pay for it in advance—encourage your children to read it—bring up your children in the way they should go—in the paths of VIRTUE and INDUSTRY—and they will never depart from them."

The Early Planting of Potatoes.—Professional gardeners, says the *Scientific American* of the 7th inst., here adopt a method of producing early potatoes which is probably not as well known as it deserves to be. It consists in allowing the potatoes intended for seed to push forth shoots before they are planted; with this view some early kinds are placed in a layer about three or four inches in depth, in some warm place, such as a stable, on the loft or floor of any out-house, etc. The potatoes are covered with straw sufficient to protect them from frost, and some time in April, or early in May, the sets, each with a robust bud or shoot a couple of inches in length, more or less, are planted in rows about fifteen inches apart, and eight or nine inches from set to set in the rows. With respect to manure, it may either be applied in the usual way under and in contact with the sets, in which case short stable stuff is preferred, but any kind of short manure or compost will answer. The sets, with the shoots retained in an upright position, are covered to the depth of five or six inches with fine mold; and as the plants advance in growth, additional earth is drawn up to them with the hoe. So managed, the crop will be fit for use in June, when the ground from which it has been removed may be cropped with cabbage, turnips, etc. Of course this

method is only for securing early potatoes, and they must be protected with matting from the late frosts which sometimes take place in May, after severe thunder storms.

The Onion Fly.—We have noticed, in this city, some patches of onions that have been affected by some insect—probably the same alluded to in the following article, from a correspondent of *Life Illustrated*, who says "a few words in regard to this fly which has proved so destructive to the onion crops for a few years past."

"About the twentieth of last April," says the writer, "I sowed to onions a piece of ground containing about two square rods; they came up well and grew finely, until attacked by the fly; they soon began to die, and in two weeks half the plants were destroyed and the rest more or less affected. I pulled up one large, fine-looking plant, upon the root of which I counted thirty larvæ, from the 20th to the 16th of an inch in length; they appeared like small white worms. I saw my crop would soon be ruined at this rate. I removed the earth from the plants on each side of the rows, to the depth of three-fourths of an inch, or down to the small roots, thus leaving a trench about two inches wide; these I filled with boiling water poured directly from the kettle. They did not need a second dose; it killed every larva, and did not injure a single onion. The plants from that time grew well, and I harvested four bushels of good onions from that piece of ground."

Raising Hemp.

Hemp is a crop which pays well. When raised for seed it is an exhausting drain upon the soil; but when it is pulled green for cordage, it does not impoverish the ground more than ordinary grass cut for hay.

In Napa, California, and elsewhere, large areas of land are so overrun with wild radish and other weeds, that we would not accept it as a gift, for the cost of eradicating the weeds would be more than the value of the crop. It is said, however, that a single crop of hemp has completely cleansed the land of ordinary weeds; and the second crop has rooted out the vilest.

Hemp is more suitable for ropes than flax. Flax, also, should be grown for seed and for the manufacture of linen fabrics.

Shade Trees.—Those who have not as yet set out trees on the edge of their walks, should lose no time in doing so. The box elder is highly recommended as a thrifty grower and handsome looking tree, when properly trained. It has succeeded well in various parts of this city. The locust, also, is sufficiently known to recommend it without particular notice by us. For posts the locust is said to be superior to cedar—lasting longer in the ground.

The Fruit Trees, especially in the upper portions of the city, are generally beginning to show unmistakable signs of life. They will soon be out in leaves. The fruit buds are also swelling and there is a more promising prospect than many had anticipated, for at least a moderate yield of apples. Of apricots and peaches, probably the yield will be small.

The first Peach Blossoms we have seen this season we found, on April 15th, in the garden of J. McKnight. They were fully developed, and found on limbs near the ground on some of the low-growing trees. The probability is that these limbs being covered with snow when the severe frosts came which seem to have so generally injured the fruit buds, escaped injury.

Dried Pie Plant.—We give the following just received: Prepare the plant in the same manner as for pies; stew it the same way; spread on plates, pans or boards to dry. When dry, it may be put up the same as dried fruit for winter use. When it is to be used, stew a few minutes, and you have green pie plant, or just as good.

Grapes in the South.—They are said to be experimenting on grapes with great success in Northern Louisiana, by grafting the best varieties from France upon the wild grape-vines which grow luxuriantly in that region, and some grapes have been produced that cannot be excelled in Europe.

Fat Sheep.—Two fat Leicester sheep were last fall exhibited at Faneuil Hall market, Boston, weighing respectively 392 and 320 pounds.

Cranberries.—Three towns in Massachusetts, raised the present year 1,986 bbls. of cranberries, valued at \$23,000.