

Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

NEXT WEEK'S WORK.

By VERONICA.

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

Flower (To be sown in hotbed, or in boxes or pans in frames):—Mignonette, Ten Week Stocks, Asters, Sweet Peas, Candytuft, Nemesis.

Vegetables:—Broad Beans (Wind-sor, Long Pods), Peas (Pride of the Market, Wm. Hurst), Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Onion, Parsnip.

Roots:—Rhubarb, Potatoes, Chives, Marjoram, Sage, Thyme, Lavender, Lilies, Early Gladioli, Paeonies.

Planting:—Shelter Trees, Hedge Plants, Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Roses, Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, Loganberries, Strawberries.

GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

July is generally a very wet month; the soil is cold, and consequently work is often at a standstill. When we get a few dry days, every effort should be put forth to push on with planting roses, fruit trees, etc. Continue sowing broad beans for succession, and also peas. July is a suitable month for sowing onions in the place where they are to mature. Some growers still prefer this method to transplanting, and when the land is clean, they do very well. Tomato seed for early work may be sown on hotbed this month; sow seed thinly and give as much air as possible after plants are up to prevent damping and "drawing." Ten weeks stocks and asters may be sown either in greenhouse or in hotbed frames. To get stocks and asters in perfection the seed must be sown early, and the plants put out during August. Late sown plants, as a rule, never give such a good display of bloom. Many amateurs prefer to buy these plants from the seedsman, and we believe this is the cheapest plan, especially with asters, as the seed very often is of inferior germinating power. Stocks, of course, are very easily grown, but unless great care be exercised during the seedling stage they are exceedingly liable to "damp."

Fruit trees may now be pruned, branches regulated, and all moss, etc., removed. Too much care cannot be bestowed on orchards in order to get thoroughly clean trees.

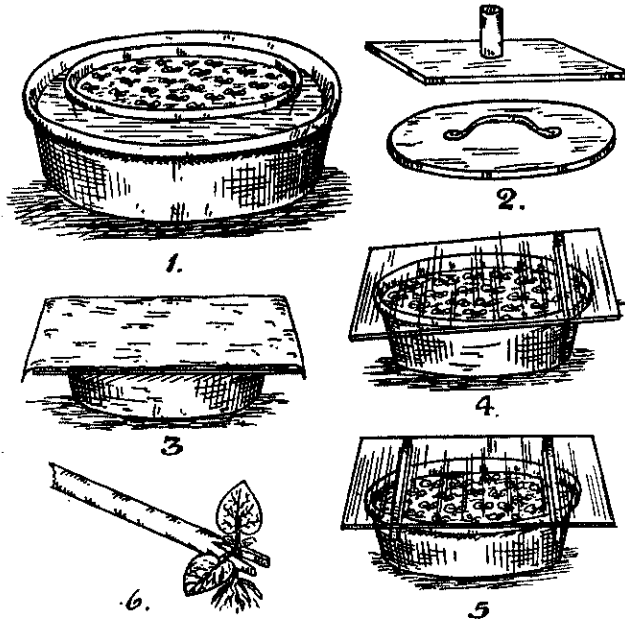
Slugs and snails are very troublesome this month and must be hunted vigorously. Nothing beats shell-lime for this purpose, if fresh and good. We always use "R on S" and have never found it to fail. Look over carnation beds and growing sweet peas, and destroy slugs.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS FROM SEED.

Provided a growing temperature of not less than sixty-five degrees can be commanded, good strong tuberous Begonias can readily be raised from seed for bedding out and other purposes, August sown plants usually producing a fine display of blooms during the month of January. As the seed is very minute, it should be mixed with a little fine sand before sowing, so that it can be thinly and evenly distributed.

Soil consisting of equal parts good fibrous loam and decayed leaf mould, and quarter of a part coarse sand should be prepared and passed through a fine sieve. Well drain one or two pans with broken potsherds and rough compost siftings, fill with compost, and stand each in a larger pan of water as shown in Fig. 1, so that the soil becomes thoroughly moistened, this method of

applying water being the best both for pans and fine compost and small tender seedlings. Allow the pans to drain, and then scatter the seed carefully and thinly over the surface, lightly dusting it over with some very fine compost, and gently pressing the surface with



Raising Tuberous Begonias from Seed.

a piece of glass or a contrivance formed of smooth wood similar to Fig. 2, one of those shown being for use in boxes and square pans, and the other for pots and circular pans.

Cover each pan with a sheet of glass and also a sheet of paper, as shown in Fig. 3, and plunge in cocoa fibre refuse with a bottom heat of about seventy degrees. Remove the glass for a short time each morning and wipe off all moisture, remove the paper as soon as germination has taken place, and gradually expose the seedlings to full light and air, one method of gradually increasing the supply of air to a pan of seedlings being shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the glass being tilted on pieces of stick laid across the pan.

As soon as the seedlings have formed two or three leaves they should be pricked out one and a half inches apart in pans or boxes of compost as before, the safest method of handling them being to loosen the soil with a pointed stick and lift each plant and place it in position in the pricking-out box by means of a notched stick as shown in Fig. 6. When this operation is completed, apply water in the manner before advised and keep the seedlings rather close for four or five days, after which grow on in a fairly moist and warm atmosphere.

A BRIGHT WINTER-FLOWERING CLIMBER.

Manettia bicolor is a plant which deserves greater popularity; few winter-flowering plants give as good returns for so small an amount of labour. It is an uncommon plant, and blooming as it does throughout the winter months, its scarlet and yellow flowers never fail to catch the eye.

Cuttings should be struck in September and potted in two shifts into 8-inch pots, when they may be placed in a cold, partially-shaded frame till March; then topdress them, and place in their winter quarters, which should be in a house where a night temperature of 50 degrees can be maintained. Tied to the wires on the roof is its ideal situation.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

This important floral festival—the 21st held under the auspices of this Society—took place within the historic grounds of the Inner Temple, London, on May 26, and two following days. These exhibitions have been characterised by a success almost without a parallel. So much has their popularity increased that the Society finds its resources taxed to the utmost to make room for the ever-increasing displays. On the opening day the charge for admission in former years

novelty was presented; greenhouse plants, orchids, etc., were much in evidence, the coveted Veitchian cup being won by Mr. F. M. Ogilvie, Oxford. Magnificent groups of stove and greenhouse plants, Orchids, etc., were staged by leading nurserymen. A fine bougainvillea named Maule (Chettleburgh, with bright flowers), was shown by Messrs Cannell, of Swanley, who also staged some noteworthy cannas, amongst others one named Dr. Nansen, a dwarf grower, with yellow flowers. Messrs. Sutton had a great display of calcularias, cinerarias, schizanthus, glouxinias, and begonias.

A magnificent display of the clorinda pelargonium was staged by Mr. E. Beckett Elstree. Carnations appear to have been a great feature at this show. All kinds were well represented; the malmaison type was represented by Princess of Wales (rose), Maggie Hudson (crimson), King Arthur (scarlet), Mrs. Martin R. Smith (rich pink), Elf King (purple tint), and numerous others. The American type was well to the fore, such famous sorts as Aristocrat, Enchantress, Harlowarden, White Perfection, Winsor, etc., being remarkably fine.

Roses in great numbers of many sections growing in pots, as well as cut blooms, were well shown in almost endless variety. The biggest blooms were those of Princess C. de Ligne, which measured 7in in diameter; blooms were loosely built. Pierre Notting and Frau Karl Druschki were also of great size. Amongst roses deemed worthy of special notice we find Wm. Shean, Mrs. Myles Kennedy (a grand creamy white tea), Cherry Ripe, Elizabeth Barnes and Nellie Johnston. Dorothy Page Roberts is uncommon in colour, but of a sprawling form when expanded. Dean Hole is a nice bud. Mrs. Longworth is a new American rose, a sport from Caroline Testout, pink with white tints. The Lion is a pretty filbert-shaped bloom, salmon pink colour, tinted with copper. Delight a new trailing rose with white centre, flowers of the build of Hiawatha. Elaine, a pure white Hybrid tea, obtained an award of merit.

A fine display of azaleas and rhododendrons were on view. Messrs. John Waterer and Sons, the famous growers, showing the rhododendron pink pearl in excellent condition.

Sweet peas were shown by several exhibitors. The sprays of blossom being of good colour and well flowered. Some of the finest varieties shown were Helen Lewis, Miss Wilmott, Etta Dyke (said to be the finest white), Elsie Herbert, Mrs. Collier, King Alphonso (deep carmine), Audrey Crier, Queen Alexandra, Gladys



Winter-flowering Begonia, Mrs. Heal.

A hybrid from *B. Socotrana*, and a tuberous-rooted variety. Cultivated in 8-in. pots, and grew two feet or more in height.