

Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

NEXT WEEK'S WORK.

By VERONICA.

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

Flowers.—Asters, Ten-week Stocks, Calliopsis, Nemesis, Mignonette, Dianthus, Gaillardia, Sweet Pea.

Vegetables.—Asparagus, Broad Beans, Cabbage, Carrot (Early Horn), Cauliflower, Celery in frames, Cress, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions (Brown Spanish), Peas (Little Gem, Daisy), Parsnip, Radish, (Long Scarlet), Tomato in frames.

Roots.—Potatoes, Rhubarb, Herbs, Gladioli, Lilies.

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

GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

August is a very busy month in the garden. Every favourable opportunity should be seized for pushing on the general work to be got through. Any fruit trees or shrubs or roses not yet planted should be got in with as little delay as possible. Early potatoes may be planted, choosing a dry, sheltered situation. Continue to sow broad beans for succession, and also peas. There are endless varieties of this grand vegetable, and many people have their own favourite variety. We generally find Little Gem and Daisy suitable for this month's sowing. Onions may be transplanted. Seed should be sown not later than August. Continue to plant out cabbage and cauliflower. Sow saladings every ten days where a succession is required. The first sowing of early carrots can be got in. Parsnip may be sown on deeply-dug or trenched ground.

Roses should be pruned this month and given a liberal dressing of decayed manure. Spring-flowering bulbs are advancing in growth, and the plots or borders occupied by these should have the soil loosened around them and all weeds removed. Carnations, Hollyhocks, pansies, antirrhinums, etc., can be planted out when the weather is suitable and the soil in a workable condition. Edgings, such as Golden Feather, Scheveria, Golden Thyme, etc., should be got into place without delay. Dig over any vacant piece of ground in readiness for later plantings. Where seedlings are being raised in frames or greenhouse, see that plenty of air is admitted without cold draughts. Unless this be carefully attended to the seedlings will get "drawn" and will never make nice hardy, "stocky" plants.

Continue pruning and regulating the branches of fruit trees, and where these have not received their winter wash this should be attended to at once. August is a suitable month for grafting fruit trees and we hope to give details of this interesting operation in another issue.

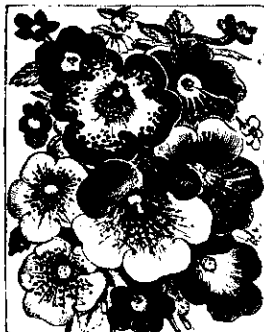
NEW AUSTRALIAN ROSE.

A new deep crimson rose of Australian raising is "Lady Chelmsford." This variety is announced for the first time, and hails from Queensland. It comes with the qualification rose growers generally are looking for, as it is said to be the finest everblooming rose yet raised in Australia, and is quite choice for garden or show purposes. The colour is a deep crimson, changing to purple. This is a colour that is wanted in free bloomers, especially of show form. Queensland is to be congratulated on the lead she is giving the rose garden of Victoria in raising Australian varieties. Queensland begins with varieties quite good, and distinct. Victoria has not yet even, with its National Rose Society, made a beginning.

ACHIMENES IN BASKETS AND PANS.

Although Achimenes make delightful little pot plants, their fullest beauty is revealed when they are grown in baskets and suspended in the conservatory or greenhouse. In this form of culture there are no great difficulties to surmount, and a mass of bloom is the result.

Achimenes have long, slender, catkin-like tubers or corms, by the division



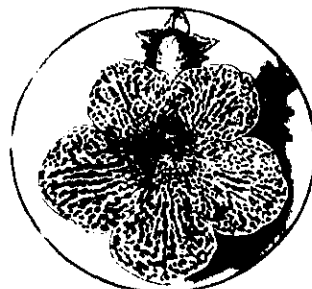
Achimenes.

of which they may be propagated, as well as by cuttings made of tops. They love heat, shade, and moisture during the growing season, but when the flowers begin to expand, if desirable, they may be gradually inured to withstand the temperature of a somewhat cool, but close greenhouse. The soil in which they thrive best is a mixture of peat, leaf-mould, well-decomposed manure, and sand in about equal parts, with the addition of a little loam. In order to maintain a succession of these beautiful flowers, a few of the scaly tubers should be planted monthly, from the be-

ginning of August until the end of October.

When required for hanging baskets, several varieties of different colours judiciously mixed in each basket produce the finest effect when in flower, but for pot culture the colours should be kept separate. Achimenes produce the best effect in suspended baskets, but, in order to get them to display their flowers to the greatest advantage the baskets, after being properly filled and planted, should be placed bottom upwards; the plants will push through the soil and grow erect. As they advance in growth the strongest will be benefited by having their points pinched off, which tends to make the plants more massive through the production of laterals. Owing to the check thus received, the weaker-growing kinds are enabled to keep on a more equal footing with the more vigorous growers. When the plants show signs of flowering, the baskets may be hung up in their proper places; their bottoms will be well furnished, and the gentle curve upwards, which the shoots are sure to take serves to bring the bloom more plainly into view.

When not treated as basket plants, Achimenes are usually grown in shallow



Achimenes.

criminally, when they come into flower, they are apt to have a patched and ragged appearance.

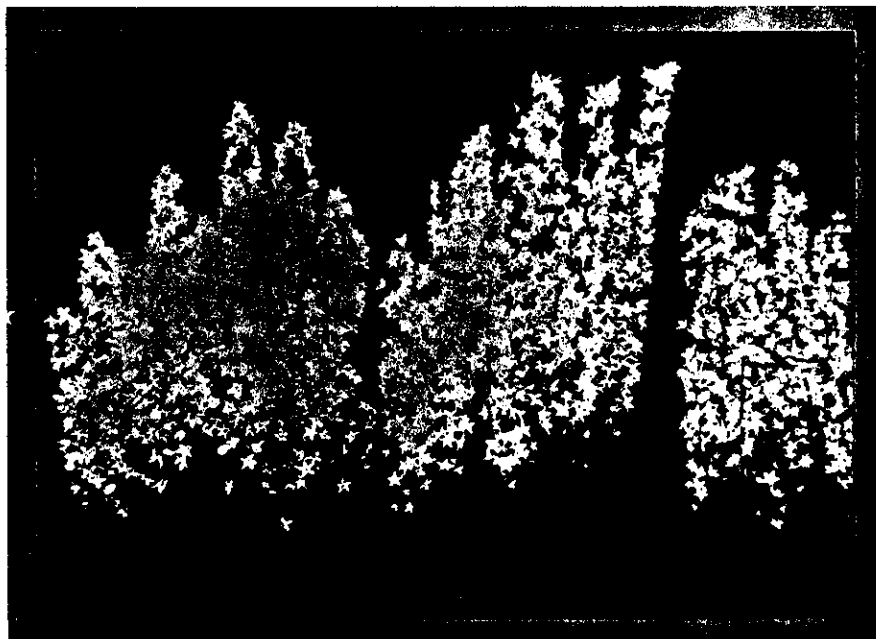
Achimenes being deciduous, will, soon after the flowers are over, cast their leaves, and their stems will decay. During this stage the supply of water must be gradually diminished until they are quite dormant; then the supply should entirely cease.



- A—Pot with dormant Corms.
- B—Corm, flowering size.
- C—Corm, small size for growing on.
- D— Flowering Corms, planted in pan.
- E—Small Corms, planted in seed box.
- F—Plant ready for potting.

PAMPAS GRASS.

The plants when two or three years old are benefited by burning; it cleans the plant of dead grass, and does not injure the green crown. Plants burnt the year before will next year throw fine plumes two weeks earlier than those not burnt; there is no danger by such process to this wiry grass.



Campanula Pyramidalis.

At Moor Hall, Stourport, the residence of Mr. John Brinton.

This plant is of the easiest possible culture, and succeeds well in New Zealand. Seeds sown in autumn will flower the following year.