

Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

IMPORTANT TO SHOW SECRETARIES.

We invite Secretaries of all Horticultural Societies in the Dominion to forward the dates of their forthcoming events for publication. These will be inserted free of charge.

NEXT WEEK'S WORK.

By VERONICA.

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

Flower.—Acoelium, Helichrysum, Rhodanthé; Alyssum Odorum; Candy-tuft Hybrid, Empress; Centaurea, Imperialis, Marguerite; Cosmos; Dawn, Mammoth; Gleditsia, Larkspur, Linaria; Leptosyne, Stillmanni; Lupinus Nanus; Mignonette, Matthiola; Nemophila Menziesii; Nasturtium, tall and dwarf; Phlox Drummondii Grandiflora; Portulaca, single and double; Sunflowers, single; Zinnia; Ornamental Grasses.

Vegetable.—Beet, turnip-rooted, Long Red varieties; Broccoli; Carrot, Osheart, Intermediate; Celery in frames; Cucumber; Lettuce; Parsnip, Student, Hollow Crown; Peas, Yorkshire Hero, Pride of the Market, Veitch's Perfection, &c.; Pepper on Hotbeds; Radish, Mustard, Cress; Spinnach, round; Tomato, Melons, Vegetable Marrow; Turnip, Snow Ball, Golden & all.

Roots.—Potatoes, Artichoke, Gladioli, Anaryllis, Tuberoses.

Plant Out—Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Tomato, Carnations, Annuals and Perennials.

GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

October is one of the busiest months in the garden, weeds grow so rapidly and so many things require attention that every endeavour must be made to overtake the work. Lawns require attention. If the grass has been allowed to grow rank or if new grass has been put down it should be mowed with a scythe and rolled before using lawn mower. Continue successional sowings of peas every ten days or thereabouts. A few kidney beans may be put in, in sheltered situations. Vegetable marrows may be sown, and tomatoes planted out in warm districts only. There is plenty of time for getting the main crop of tomatoes out especially in exposed areas. Kumeras should be started in frames. Keep the hoe going in all crops above ground; this will assist the growth and destroy weeds in their seedling state. Plant potatoes and earth up and spray the earlier plant-

ed patch. Wall roses should be kept as clean as possible of green fly by frequent washings of Gishurst's compound. Dahlia roots should be started in frames. Gladioli should be planted. Conserve the foliage of daffodils which have done flowering. Carnations need attention; hoe between the plants and keep a look out for slugs. Seeds of hardy annuals can be sown in the beds or borders; half hardy sorts can be transplanted to their flowering quarters.

GARDEN NOTES.

Pumpkins, squashes, melons and cucumbers should be planted now. Pumpkins and squashes are very valuable for winter use, and everyone having a bit of

the best sort to grow is Yates' Mangere Prize. We have often grown this kind in the open, quite as large as English frame sorts.

The potato blight, so far as we can learn, is not so troublesome as in former years, and we are in hopes that, with the good season we have had, it will not be nearly so bad as the last two seasons. At the same time it would be unwise to defer spraying, and we advise all growers not to neglect this operation. The early planted crops are very promising, and growers are anticipating a fair yield and lower prices.

The Royal Horticultural Society of England has made an experimental trial of tomatoes, each variety being represented by 50 to 60 plants. The earliest ripening and best cropping kind was Lye's Early Prolific, and the Society has given it an award of merit. It does not follow that this variety will succeed as well in New Zealand, still it is worthy of trial and no doubt, some of our seedsmen will give it that.

The National Dahlia Society held their annual show in London last month. The entries were good, but owing to wet weather, the attendance was meagre, the quality of the blooms in the show section was not up to former exhibits, but

thur Budge, Rev. A. Hall. The first ten of these are new kinds, which were shown for the first time.

The best bunch of cactus dahlias in the growers' class was named C. E. Wilkins, and a silver medal was awarded it. Cactus dahlias, staged in vases and decorated with foliage and fruits of other plants, was one of the most pleasing classes shown.

Novelties in dahlias were very numerous, but only ten were selected for certificates. A new break was seen in a variety named Una (pink coloured), in which the florets are very narrow, and are divided at the tips, forming a sort of cresting.

PIPTANTHUS NEPALENSIS.

Whilst there exists no lack of climbing plants capable of filling almost every garden requirement, there is always room for a good flowering evergreen whose foliage is excellent at all times, and whose flowers are very attractive throughout summer, especially if the plant be one that can grow and thrive in normally poor soils, provided the situation is warm, sunny and sheltered. Piptanthus nepalensis, the climbing laburnum, more familiar, perhaps, to gardeners as Thermopsis laburnifolia, fulfils these conditions in no small degree, and wherever it is grown it is valued for its distinctive features. Although described as tender save in sheltered situations, I have seen and admired many plants thriving under conditions which ivy could barely endure, and when I note flowering specimens of considerable age in the East of Fife, in Forfarshire, in Cumberland, and in several Midland gardens, it becomes evident that its hardiness is considerable. The crux of the matter lies in the type of plant acquired. In common with most leguminous plants, piptanthus makes simple roots three feet in length, whose first impulse is to descend as deeply as they can go; it then develops stems three feet long or more the first season, and reaches a height of 10 feet in the third year. Such a plant would thrive indefinitely; it has possession of the site and speedily covers the wall space allotted to it. What happens to the nursery-reared specimen is this: It is invariably reared from seeds, and when a foot high its roots are trimmed and the plant potted; its year's growth may exceed a foot.



Piptanthus Nepalensis, Flowers Yellow.

DENTZIA GRACILIS.

This is a dwarf growing shrub, producing graceful clusters of white flowers this month; it is a deciduous shrub, introduced from Japan, and is greatly valued in Britain for forcing for cut flowers. The plant is of the easiest possible culture, and is not troubled with pests. Where cut flowers are in demand it should be grown extensively.

SPIRADA GRANDIFLORA.

This is one of our finest early spring flowering shrubs. At the time of writing it is a magnificent sight with its large white flowers. The shrub grows about six feet high, and is worthy of a place in any garden.

ground should endeavour to plant a few seeds. The Crown and ordinary Ironbark are large growing kinds, but rather "soft" and consequently poor keepers. The Premier Ironbark is probably the best to grow for keeping. The Hubbard squash is a general favourite. Of melons there are no end of kinds. Cucumbers are also to be procured in endless variety, but for all purposes including exhibition,

in the cactus section the blooms were very fine. Messrs. Stredwick, the famous growers, won for the seventh time the silver challenge cup with varieties of their own raising, viz., Dorando, Snowstorm, Saxonia, Rev. T. W. Jamieson, Evening Star, Indomitable, Diadem, Satisfaction, Herald, Mrs. Alfred Dyer, J. B. Riding, Harohi Peerman, Ivernia, C. E. Wilkins, Wm. Marshall, Dr. G. G. Gray, Rev. Ar-

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