

Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

Flower.—Dianthus, single and double; Gaillardia; Lupinus Arboreus; Mignonette; Pyrethrum; Sweet Peas.

Vegetable.—Broad Beans; Carrot, Earliest Horn; Cabbage; Cauliflower; Lettuce, Cabbage; Onion, Brown Spanish; Radish and Mustard; Turnip, Earliest White; Peas, Early Dwarf.

Roots.—Anemones, Iris, Ixias, Narcissus, Ranunculus, Gladioli (the Bride); Potato Onions, Eschalots, Garlic, Strawberries.

FLOWER ROOTS FOR PLANTING THIS MONTH.

Allamius, Anemones, Crocus, Cyclamen, Freesia, Hyacinths, Ixias, Narcissus, Ranunculus, Scillas, Snowdrops, Sparaxis, Tulips.

BULBS TO PLANT THIS MONTH.

Anemones (St. Bridget and Single), Babianus, Crocus, Freesias, Hyacinths, (in pots, glasses or beds), Iris (Spanish), Ixias, Jonquils (single and double), Narcissus, Ranunculus Asiaticus Superbissinus, Sparaxis, Tritomas, Tulips (single and double).

WORK TO BE DONE.

Asparagus.

Beds of asparagus should be given a good dressing of stable manure without delay, a top dressing of salt or of kainit of potash will be of benefit.

Fruit Trees.

Where basic slag is intended for the orchard, May and June are the best months to apply. Experiments have proved that this fertiliser gives the best results when applied to this season; 5 to 6 cwt to the acre is a fair dressing, but if the land is poor 10 cwt will not be too much. Kainit can be sown at the same time, and mixed with the slag it helps to make the sowing less unpleasant. Slag should always be sown on a still day; there is great waste in sowing when it is windy.

Garden Peas.

THE RIGHT AND THE WRONG WAY OF SOWING.

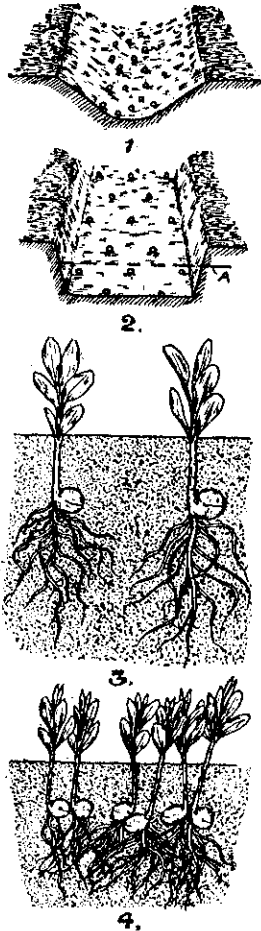
DEEPLY dug and liberally manured soil is essential to successful pea culture, and, if possible, the ground should be turned up during the autumn, and left in a rough state until the approach of the sowing season, so that it may receive the benefits of exposure to weather. Peas are deep-rooting subjects, therefore the best results are most likely to be obtained by incorporating the manure with the soil at a good depth as the work of digging proceeds than by placing it in the trenches at the time the seed is sown, another advantage of the former method being that the roots of the plants are induced to spread a considerable distance on each side of the row in search of nourishment, whereas the latter method causes the roots to remain in the neighbourhood of the manure in the trenches, and obtain their nourishment and moisture from a comparatively small area of ground with the result that dry weather speedily has an unfavourable effect upon the plants.

Peas should never be sown under or near to large trees, or drawn unfruitful growth will be produced, and, if possible, the rows should run from north to south so that the sun will shine on both sides. Before sowing the seed, and when the soil is fairly dry and friable, the ground must be well raked and broken up and also lightly trodden.

The old-fashioned practice of sowing peas in narrow V-shaped drills in the manner shown in Fig. 1 herewith, is a mistake, and does not give the seeds a fair chance to develop into strong, sturdy plants; other common mistakes being placing the rows too closely together, and sowing the seed too quickly. Sketches 3 and 4 give a good idea of the difference in the strength and condition of the roots of properly sown peas and peas sown too thickly.

Shallow trenches, the width of an ordinary spade, should be got out similar to Fig. 2, and the seed be evenly distributed in the bottom, a pint of seed being sufficient for a row about forty feet in length. The seed should be covered with fine soil about one and a half inches thick, and if the finished surface of the trench is a little below the natural ground level as indicated by the dotted line A in Fig. 2, it will provide space for earthing the young plants as they grow.

Birds are very partial to young peas, therefore, as soon as the seed is sown,



Methods of Sowing Peas.

1. Wrong way. 2. The right way.
3. Result of thin sowing. 4. The plants are too crowded.

several strands of black thread should be stretched up and down each row about an inch from the ground, or the rows be covered with linned garden netting to provide protection. Mice are often troublesome, and eat the seeds both before and after germination. As a preventive the seeds should be slightly dampened and dusted with red lead before being sown, whilst trapping and poisoning are the only remedies after the seeds have commenced to grow. Repeated dustings of lime and soot will prevent slugs injuring the young plants.

Carter's International Pea.

The garden pea which is shown in the accompanying illustration is a new variety of great merit, Carter's International. It received an award of merit from the R.H.S. last year, and is the result of a cross between Carter's well known variety Early Horn and Duke of Albany. It is quite distinct both in shape of pod and in habit of growth. The pods are of rich green colour, containing eleven peas of excellent size and flavour. We believe this is the largest curved podded Marrowfat Pea at present in commerce. It is a second early variety, and grows 5 to 6 feet high.

GLORIOSAS.

These very distinct flowering climbers are well worth a place in the stove. They are exceedingly showy plants, producing their elegant flowers during the latter part of the summer, and are easily

them. When the plants are growing freely, they must be afforded abundance of water; weak liquid manure applied occasionally will be found to assist them very much, and they must be trained as they grow, or the tendrils with which each leaf is furnished at the apex will become so firmly fixed to other plants that it will be impossible to remove them without injury. After flowering, and when the bulbs are quite mature, which will be ascertained by the foliage dying off entirely, the pots should be stored away on their sides in a warm place. Gloriosas are usually increased by divisions of the roots, but as the roots are very brittle and impatient of interference, the offsets should therefore be carefully removed from the old bulbs when starting them in spring. Seeds can also be procured by artificial impregnation, therefore young plants may also be obtained in this way. *G. superba* is a favourite with many, the flowering being of a deep orange and yellow colour. *G. grandiflora* is another fine variety, having sulphur-yellow flowers. J.M.T.



Carter's International Pea.

MATHIOLA BICORNIS.

managed. They can be grown against a back wall, up the pillars, or they may be trained under the roof of a stove, out of the way of the other plants, and where the singular-looking flowers show to good advantage. It is now time to carefully report the plants, which will have been kept through the winter in dry earth. The soil best adapted for them is a mixture of fibrous peat, light loam, good leaf mould, well-decomposed manure, and silver sand in about equal parts. It is necessary that the pots should be thoroughly well drained.

When the roots are strong, they may be put at once into the pots they are to be grown and flowered in, or they can be started in smaller ones, and afterwards, when they have made some progress, be moved into larger ones. With sufficient room, these plants attain more size and are proportionately more effective. Full-sized roots should have 10-inch pots; in the case of roots that have not reached their full size, two or three roots may be put in a pot, and started in a temperature of 65deg. After potting, they will not, if the soil is in good order, require water until they show their growth; after this, a good moist heat is necessary, and care must be taken to keep red spider and thrip from

The night smelling stock is one of the annuals that should not be forgotten, but which very often is. But, indeed, it is scarcely as well known as it ought to be. Certainly it has one drawback, which, no doubt, largely accounts for its limited cultivation. It closes its blossoms during the bright part of the day, and is only worth looking at in the evening. Then the little blossoms are very pretty, and when grown in patches of one or two dozen plants no one will see without admiring it, and no one will approach within many yards of it without seeing it, attracted, as they will be, by its fine, far-reaching odour. To smell a rose you must needs come into its immediate neighbourhood; to smell mathiola you need only come into a garden where it grows. A few plants will scent the garden, a sprig or two will scent the largest room, and the odour, although so powerful, is not of those that are overpowering. It is a most delightful pleasure to go into a garden in the evening where a patch or bed of this is sown. To grow it just sow it where it is to bloom.