

# Life in the Garden.

## Practical Advice for Amateurs.

### SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

**Flowers.**—Asters, Candytuft (giant flowering), Empress Carnations, Clarkia, Dianthus, Godetia, Hilychrysum, Larkspur, Lupinus (annual sorts), Mignonette, Nemophila, Shirley Poppies, Schizanthus, Stocks, Sweet Peas.

**Vegetable.**—Asparagus, Broad Beans, Cabbage, Cauliflowers, Cape Gooseberry, Early Horn Carrot, Cress, Leek, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas (William Hirst, Gradus, Daisy), Parsley, Parsnip, Radish, Spinach, Tomato, and White Turnip.

**Planting.**—Potatoes, Artichokes, Rhubarb, Herbs, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Onions, Shelter and Fruiting Trees and Bushes, Roses, Gladioli Bulbs, Lilies, Tuberoses.

### GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

SPRING always brings us face to face with any amount of work in our gardens, and some amateurs are occasionally puzzled what to set about first; we would strongly urge that first place be given to planting such things as roses, fruit trees, or shrubs, which may have been overlooked or have arrived late; all such should be got in at once. Then choose a dry situation in which to plant early potatoes; some of the fine old Kidneys are again on the market, and are well worth growing. Continue to plant broad beans for successional crops. Sow early peas. Onions can still be sown this month, and autumn sown onions can be transplanted. Continue planting out cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce. Saladings should be sown every ten days, where a succession is required. A few early carrots and parsnips may be sown on deeply-dug ground. Carnations, hollyhocks, antirrhinums and penstemons can be planted out when soil is suitable. Dig over all vacant land in readiness for future work. Where seedlings are being raised in frames or greenhouse, see that air is freely admitted, without cold draughts. Unless this important point is carefully attended to, the seedlings will get "drawn," and will never make nice, hardy, "stocky" plants.

Finish pruning and regulating the branches of fruit trees. Any grafting required is best done during August. Where fruit trees have not received their winter wash, they should be attended to without further delay.

### Culinary Peas.

The enormous number of varieties of garden peas now on the market is rather puzzling to some amateurs. There appears to be no cessation of new arrivals, for the cry is "Still they come!" the present season being especially prolific in new kinds. We do not at the present time propose giving any opinion on new introductions, preferring to wait and observe the results when grown in the Dominion. There are some standard sorts for early use, such as William Hirst and Gradus, too well known to require any description here, further than to say the former is a very dwarf-growing kind, and on that account will commend itself to those who cannot procure, or have no time for, staking. Gradus is a grand early, grows 3ft high, but it is a very poor cropper. The pods, however, are very large.

English Wonder comes in about a fortnight after William Hirst, and, like that variety, is also dwarf-growing. A splendid cropper, the peas are closely packed together in the pods, averaging about eight fine peas in each, of good quality and flavour.

Stratagem, when true, is one of the best peas we possess. It grows 2ft to 2½ft, produces long dark green pods, and peas of excellent quality. It is a heavy

cropper on good land, and a pea suitable either for table or for exhibition.

Alderman is an exceedingly handsome and prolific variety, but grows 5ft high. For exhibition purposes there are few to rival it. Many prizes and certificates have been awarded this variety.

One of the best-flavoured late peas is named the Gladstone. It is a superb pea for the table, turning out, after cooking, very dark green; makes a most tempting dish. The pods are produced in pairs, and it grows 3ft to 3½ft high. Pods are deeply curved, and often contain 10 to 12 large peas. It remains a long time fit for using, but is only suitable for main crop.

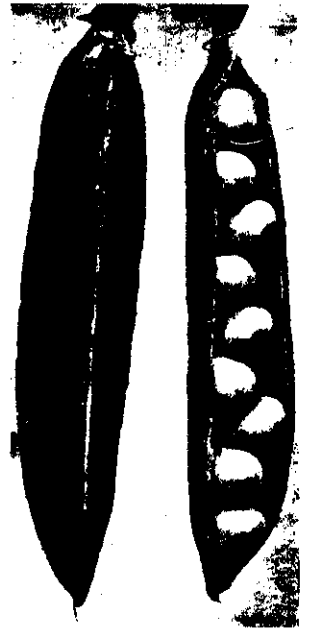
A pea we have tried and like is Prize-winner. It comes in about same time as Stratagem, and is a somewhat similar pea. Pods slightly curved; height, 2½ft.

remain standard sorts, but owing to their height (6ft) are not so much grown as they deserve. Where sticks are plentiful, however, it will pay the grower well to plant these excellent peas, which are very heavy croppers and of first-class quality.

### NEW PLYMOUTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The general committee of the New Plymouth Horticultural Society met at the Town Hall recently, and transacted several matters of importance and interest. It was reported that local rose-growers were anxious that a rose-show be held during the coming season, either under the auspices of the Society or otherwise. A proposition was made by Messrs Sandford and Griffiths, that the Society should undertake the holding of a rose show some time in October or November.

Considerable discussion took place, in which it was pointed out that the Society should encourage lovers of particular flowers by holding daffodil, rose, and other shows in their various seasons, always providing that the ideas of those interested were not too large.



Selected Alderman.

garden or employing only occasional assistance, shall be considered an amateur, providing he does not, in the opinion of the committee, make a business of growing for sale products similar to those he exhibits in the amateur class; the area to be not more than a quarter-acre section; entry fee to be 2/6 and entries to close on October 30; judges to take into consideration, first vegetables; second, flowers, shrubs, etc.; and third, general arrangements and conditions.

The judges, who will probably visit gardens twice during November, will be appointed at a later meeting.

### Parsnips.

To grow parsnips for exhibition, a deep, rich, and well-drained soil is necessary. If the soil is of a heavy nature, it will be better to make up a bed of forced earth to the required depth, than to attempt to grow them in such. A trench may be made, say 30 inches deep, and 18 inches wide for a single row, and a layer of well-rotted manure placed in the bottom and mixed with the soil. The trench should



English Wonder.

Duke of Albany used to be largely grown, but its popularity is on the wane, owing, no doubt, to the tendency it has of straining back and producing a large number of very small pods. We think Alderman will supersede this kind.

Prince of Wales is a fine cropping pea, but many object to its small pods. It shells out, however, when dry, remarkably well. The same remarks apply to Yorkshire Hero and Veitch's Perfection. These old kinds are still very popular, and justly so, for although the pods are short, they are numerous, and the peas very large, and they are also of good quality.

In cold or late districts Pride of the Market is one of the safest kinds to grow. The peas are not so good quality as some of the wrinkled sorts, but it generally does well, and is a good market sort, and often sown in early districts as a first early, owing to its hardy character.

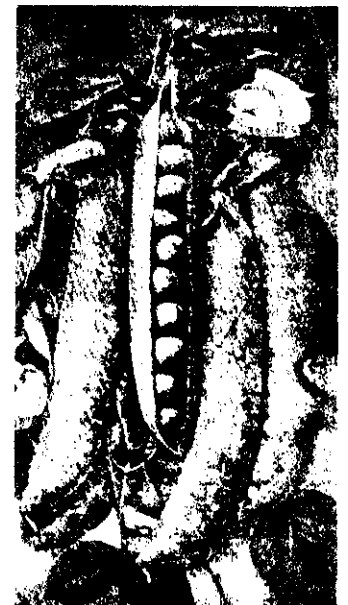
Ne Plus Ultra and British Queen still

The motion was carried, and the following committee appointed, with power to add, for the making of the necessary arrangements:—Messames Standish and Salt, Messrs S. W. Shaw, G. Tisch, J. H. Frethey, J. Gibson, J. Staples and F. Gonlachre.

After some discussion, the following sub-committee was appointed to arrange all necessary details in connection with Mr Tisch's cottage garden competition: Mrs Dockrill, Miss Hempton, Messrs G. Tisch, W. W. Smith, E. S. Allen, and G. H. McGahey.

This committee met at the close of the general committee meeting.

Mr Tisch offered, and it was decided to accept, four prizes—£2, £1 10/, £1, and 10/- for the best cottage garden, under the following conditions:—The garden to be within the borough of New Plymouth; to be confined to amateurs as laid down in clause 13 of the by-laws (any non-professional person cultivating his own



Prizewinner.