

LIFE IN THE GARDEN

Official Organ of the New Zealand Sweet Pea Society and Auckland Horticultural Society.

By Veronica.

All communications for "Veronica" should be addressed to "Graphic" Office, Auckland. Secretaries of Horticultural Societies are invited to send us short reports of their proceedings, and also any items of interest to Horticulturists. Photographs of Flowers, Fruit, or New Vegetables or Garden Scenes, will be welcomed.

SHOW DATES.

Schedules may be obtained on application to the Secretaries.

Rose and Carnation Club's Show.
Wellington, at Town Hall, November 16.

Auckland Horticultural Society.—Summer Show, Choral Hall, November 18 and 19. W. Wallace Bruce, Secretary, Swanson-street.

Hobson Horticultural and Industrial Society.—Annual Show, Aratapu, N. Wairoa, Saturday, November 19th, 1910.

Napier Amateur Horticultural Society.—Summer Show, November 23. Chrysanthemum Show, April, 1911. Hon. Secretary, J. G. H. Murdoch, P.O. Box 35, Napier.

Masterton Horticultural Society.—Summer Show, November 23. Autumn Show, February —, 1911. Secretary, H. M. Boddington, P.O. Box 23, Masterton.

Huntly Horticultural Show. November 23 and 24.

Featherstone.—November 24.

Hamilton Horticultural Society.—Summer Show, November 24, 1910.

Auckland Sweet Pea and Carnation Show, Choral Hall, December 1 and 2. W. W. Bruce, Secretary.

National Sweet Pea Society of New Zealand, Palmerston North, December 7 and 8. E. A. Osmond, Secretary, Stratford.

Wellington Rose and Carnation Club.—The Summer Show will be held in the Town Hall, Wellington, on Wednesday, December 14.

Canterbury Horticultural Society.—Rose Show, December —; Chrysanthemum Show, May —, 1911.—Secretary, Miss E. Sneyd-Smith, Manchester Street, Christchurch.

Kaponga Horticultural Society.—Annual Show, Athenaeum Hall, February 16, 1911. L. H. Baigent, Hon. Secretary.

Timaru Floral and Horticultural Society.—Autumn Show, Olympia Hall, Timaru, February 16 and 17, 1911.—Hon. Secretary, James K. McDonald, Beverley Road.

Eketahuna.—March 3, 1911.

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

Vegetable.—Beans (Dwarf, French, and Runners), Beet, Broccoli, Carrot, Cucumber, Melons, Peas, Pumpkins. Parsnip, Saladings, Sugar Corn, Turnips.

Flower.—Balsam, Celosia, Cosmos, Cockscomb, Phlox, Portulacca, Zinnias.

Plant Out Tomatoes, Cape Gooseberries, Capsicum, Celery, Kumeras, Melons, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Phlox, Salvia, etc.

GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

Push on with planting out as speedily as possible. Tomatoes, kumeras, melons, etc., should be got in their growing quarters. Continue sowings of peas, kidney beans, and runners every ten days for succession. Plant out celery, and sow radish, mustard and cress, etc., for salads every week, in order to keep up an abundant supply. Potatoes planted this month are most useful for seed. Carrots and turnips sow for succession, thin those advancing; earth up potatoes and spray. Mulch strawberries to keep the fruit clean. Thrashed straw, free from weeds,

is a good mulch or grass from the lawn may be employed.

Keep lawns clean and tidy by frequent mowings and rolling. Clip grass edgings. Weed paths and get all beds and borders in good order.

Fruit trees require constant attention this month to cope with the Codlin moth pest; spraying with Swift's Arsenate of Lead should commence as the blossom falls, and be continued every two weeks.

There is an immense amount of work in the flower garden to get through. Dahlias must be planted out as soon as sufficiently hardened. Fuchsias and bouvardias plant out and give a mulch of old manure. Chrysanthemums which have been struck during winter, can be planted out this month, select a well-manured part of the garden for them and water freely. Carnations require thinning, disbudding and tying up. Topdress with old manure to encourage a healthy growth of "grass" for layering.

Amaranthus, celosias, petunias, phlox drummondii, etc., plant out, and also salvias. These are all splendid subjects in the garden, and should be plentifully

AUCKLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SWEET PEA AND CARNATION CARNIVAL.

It has been decided by the executive of this Society to make the show to be held on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of December next a big event. The committee have taken up the matter unanimously, and are working with enthusiasm to make the carnival a huge success. The event will take place within the Metropolitan Grounds, and the various exhibits will be displayed in tents. An influential committee of ladies will assist the executive in arranging details of the numerous attractions for the public. Mr Brett, who recently visited the great Shrewsbury Show in England, is entering heartily into the project, and placing valuable information before the committee. Any suggestions our readers may have to offer will be carefully considered; these should be sent without delay to the secretary, Mr W. Wallace Bruce.

machine, and development of many other heretofore 'impossible' things, to witness this latest triumph in the realm of growing things—The Blue Rose. The easiest way to describe it is to say it is a Blue Crimson Rambler—that is, imagine a climbing rose with all the strength and vigour of the Crimson Rambler, covering immense spaces with its wondrous heavy canes and large, splendid foliage, and bearing immense trusses of roses, all the way from twenty to one hundred in number, but, instead of the gorgeous crimson flowers we all know so well, picture it in your mind with similar clusters of exquisitely beautiful violet-blue roses. The rose world is wild about the blue roses, and we expect even our enormous stock of the plants to be speedily exhausted. This wonderful production of the heretofore elusive colour in the rose world is a seedling from the Crimson Rambler discovered by a poor German florist. What a beautiful effect can be produced by having a red, white, and blue Rambler all trailing on the same porch, fence, or



CHOICE DOUBLE ZINNIA.

planted where a fine display is wanted. Tie up sweet peas to their supports, as they advance, and when the buds show freely give some liquid manure once or twice a week.

Double Zinnias.

These are exceedingly showy annuals well worthy of a place in the garden. They are of easy culture, and there is a wide range of colours. They stand the dry weather and continue in flower for a long time. Zinnias are very useful for cutting. Plants can be bought from Nurserymen at a trifling cost. There are several varieties including Zebra striped, but we consider the Double Grandiflora varieties give the best results. The flowers do not all come true; there are always some singles and semi-doubles, but many growers prefer to have a few of these.

We congratulate the committee on their plucky venture, and sincerely trust their efforts will be rewarded, as they certainly deserve to be, by witnessing the biggest and best exhibition ever seen in Australasia. Here is something new, and on a scale never before attempted here, and the general public in town and country should note the dates and turn out in thousands; we feel sure they will.

THE BLUE ROSE AGAIN.

When our American friends make a real effort at description they generally produce wonderful results. With the rambling Rose Veilchenblau as subject, the following description was given in a circular sent out by an enterprising American florist:—"It is here at last, and it has remained for this first decade of the twentieth century, which has seen the discovery of the North Pole, the practical application of the flying

trellis, forming the national colours, or even on the lawn, or in the rose garden. It is a mistaken idea that ramblers have to have a support; they can be grown very successfully in bush form."—"Gardener's Magazine."

CARNATIONS FOR EXHIBITION.

Where carnations are required for the show bench, it will be necessary to thin-out the flower stalks, and also to disbud the stalks, leaving only the strongest or centre bud. The stalks should be supported with stakes and carefully tied with raffia. Should the carnation grub exist in any bed, the plants can be sprayed with Swift's arsenate of lead, using one ounce to, say, 16 gallons of water. Carnations will be greatly benefited by mulching with old manure; fowl droppings lightly sprinkled between the rows can be used with advantage.