

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.

Featherstone.—November 24.

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

Auckland Sweet Pea and Carnation Carnival.—Metropolitan Grounds, December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. W. W. Bruce, Secretary; G. W. Plummer, Convener.

Stratford Horticultural Society.—Rose Show, December 1st. Autumn Show, February 23rd and 24th, 1911. W. Stanley Cato, Hon. Secretary.

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

New Plymouth Horticultural Society.—Spring Show, Theatre Royal, December 8.—A. L. Humphries, Secretary.

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

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.

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

Eketahuna.—March 3, 1911.

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

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

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, Cockscorb, Phlox, Portulacaceae, Zinnias.

Plant Out Tomatoes. Cape Gooseberries, Capsicums, Celery, Kumeras, Melons, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Phlox, Salvias, 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

of the shrub, and he took it in hand and crossed it with the common Mock Orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*). The progeny turned out quite a success, as is instanced by that plant of sterling merit *Philadelphus Lemoinei*, or, better still, the remarkably fine form known as *Lemoinei erectus*, which is easily one of the most ornamental flowering shrubs we possess, as so well shown in the accompanying illustration of a specimen at Kew. Since the advent of these hybrids many others of the same description have appeared, which combine to make up an exceedingly useful group of shrubs. *P. microphyllus*, if planted in a group, should be so arranged that when fully grown no two plants will touch, for a very much better effect is produced when each plant can be seen separately than when several are grown together to form one dense mass. This advice applies with equal force to *P. Lemoinei erectus*.—"Gardeners' Magazine."

will be the Queen's float (described in these columns). A sweet pea march will be performed by young ladies, under the direction of Mrs. Heap. There will be Maypole dances and other items of interest.

A refreshment marquee will also be erected, and everything possible arranged for the comfort and enjoyment of the crowds who will attend. Mr. H. Brett, who is regarded as the most enthusiastic sweet pea and carnation grower in this province, is working out a scheme which will probably be one of the principal "draws" during the carnival. These extra attractions together with what is expected to be one of the greatest exhibitions of sweet peas and carnations ever brought together in these parts, should attract the people of Auckland and surrounding districts in thousands. Some well-known carnation growers in Wellington are expected to bring of their best to



PHILADELPHUS LEMOINEI ERECTUS.

One of the finest of the hybrid mock oranges obtained from the intercrossing of *P. microphylla* and *P. coronaria*. The flowers are white.

AUCKLAND SWEET PEA AND CARNATION CARNIVAL.

METROPOLITAN GROUNDS 1st, 2nd, and 3rd DECEMBER.

Good progress is being made by the committee entrusted with the arrangements for this great floral festival. A committee of about 100 ladies has been organised, and they are working most enthusiastically to make the event a memorable one. A programme for the third day (Saturday) has been arranged and published, and this allows ample scope for Auckland's numerous artistic decorators to display their ability. The tents, in which the magnificent array of sweet peas and carnations are to be housed, will occupy four times as much floor space as the Coral Hall provides. These and the whole of the grounds will be brilliantly illuminated at night by the famous Lux lights, and one of the best military bands will render choice selections. One of the big attractions

try conclusions with our Auckland growers at this big show.

NEMESIA TRIUMPH STRAIN.

This popular spring annual is one of the best bedding plants for the adornment of our gardens in spring and early summer. It is deservedly popular on account of its free flowering qualities, the length of time it remains in full bloom, and the rich and varied colours of the flowers. The *Nemesia Strumosa* Suttonii, originally sent out by Messrs. Sutton, although a fine strain, is somewhat staggering in habit. The *New Triumph* strain is more compact in habit, and while the individual flowers are not quite so large, they are richer and more decided in colours, and a bed of them in full bloom is a fine sight. We have seen a fine lot of the *Triumph* in splendid form, growing on Messrs. Yates' farm, and all who appreciate a good lot of compact-growing *nemesias* should try this new selection.

Philadelphus Microphyllus.

This pretty little mock orange is well worth planting, for its distinct appearance always attracts attention, whilst its decorative qualities are of no mean account. It is an American species, which, when mature, attains a height of three feet or so. No other *Philadelphus* is anything like it in appearance, for its branches are fine and twiggy and become interlaced with each other to form a regular thicket. The leaves are very tiny, and grey in colour, whilst the flowers are smaller than those of other kinds, but powerfully fragrant. Upwards of twenty years ago M. Lemoine, of Nancy, was struck with the possibilities