

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, Fruits or New Vegetables, or Garden Scenes, will be welcomed.

SHOW DATES.

Schedules may be obtained on application to the Secretaries.

Napier Amateur Horticultural Society's Chrysanthemum Show, May 3.

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

GARDEN NOTES.

Crops which are done with should have all refuse cleared off and burned before the heavy winter rains fall. We advocate burning on the refuse heap in order to destroy all weed seeds and spores.

The compost heap should be turned, and some un-lacked lime mixes in when doing so. Composts should always be worked over when in a dry condition, and the raw material always placed in the bottom layer.

All vacant pieces of ground should be dug or forked over or trenched where necessary, and either left in a rough con-

dition exposed to the elements, or sown down with oats, barley, or mustard, which later on can be turned down as green manuring.

Onions can be sown for transplanting, and also a small patch of carrots and turnips. A sowing of early peas of some hardy sort may be made. Pride of the Market, although not the earliest, is a good kind for the season. Broad beans, either Longpods or Wind-sors, can be planted in rows 2ft apart and 4in between the beans.

Keep the hoe going amongst cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, and all other growing crops, earthing up as they advance in growth. Don't neglect to thin out growing crops of turnips, carrots, etc.

Kumeras should be dug and stored away in a dry, cool place; pumpkins, pie-melons, squashes, etc., can be carefully gathered and stored if the ground on which they are growing should be needed for other purposes, but experience shows that these keep better if left on the vines as long as possible. Of course, where rats or mice abound they must be lifted and stored where these pests cannot reach them—not always an easy undertaking.

Elevated shelves erected outside, and so constructed that a cat can get around, we have found the safest means of keeping these winter vegetables.

The planting of potato onions, tree onions, shallots, and garlic can be put in hand during the month. These will grow on almost any soil if fairly rich. Potato onions will grow where seed is not successful.

Asparagus beds should be top-dressed, all old stems cut down; fork over the surface soil, and then dress with stable manure 4in thick; some salt, or kaimit, should be scattered on the manure.

Sow sweet peas in pots, boxes, or in open—red lead the seed before sowing to protect against mice. Plant out anemones, ranunculus, early gladioli, and other bulbs in their flowering quarters this month.

Cut down herbaceous perennial plants which have done flowering, and, where required, propagate by dividing the roots. Aquilegias are best left undisturbed till spring before subdividing. Plant out layers of carnations and picotees into beds or borders prepared for their reception.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CRIMSON SWEET PEAS.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Sir,—Considerable confusion exists in the minds of many of our growers as to the actual difference between the stocks of Crimson Sweet Peas now on the market. Recent advices from Home are to the effect that The King was originated by Dobbie and Co., but Maud Holmes and Sunproof Crimson are from two separate stocks. Mr. Holmes was the originator of both. They were sent by him to the N.S.P. Society's trials under the two numbers, 320 and 321. Both proved good, and No. 321 was sold to Messrs. Dobbie and Co., and is being distributed by them as Dobbie's Sunproof Crimson, while the stock known as 320 is being distributed by Messrs. Holmes and Sydenham under the name of Maud Holmes.—Yours faithfully
H. A. FOX.



W. J. Vasey, photo.

A MAGNIFICENT GROUP OF POT PLANTS AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

This fine exhibit of plants grown in pots was staged by Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Chelsea. The collection, which was awarded a gold medal, included fine specimens of Wistaria, Lilacs, Laburnums, Azaleas, Deutzias, Pyrus Floribunda, Genistas, etc.