

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 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.

COMING SHOWS.

Auckland Horticultural Society—
September 5, 6, and 7.
Horowhena Horticultural Show—
Town Hall, Otaki, November.

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

We would urge upon secretaries of all Horticultural Societies the importance of sending us the dates of their shows. Neglect to do so means loss to their Society in the end.

All schedules forwarded to the Garden Editor of "The Weekly Graphic" will be acknowledged, and a sketch of same published in these columns.

GARDEN NOTES.

JAPANESE flowering cherries are extremely showy, and should receive attention from planters in search of a good tree for decoration. They are very free flowering, and can be procured in several colourings.

Double flowering peaches are also worthy of notice. The display made by these plants once seen is long remembered.

Eugenia Pattersonii is a plant not often seen in our shrubberies. It is one, however, deserving of extended cultivation, as the compact pyramidal growth makes a very handsome tree.

Eriostimon nerifolium is a most desirable dwarf-growing shrub, but little known. It produces star-shaped pure-white flowers, in great profusion, and only grows about three feet high.

When planting trees for effect the scarlet flowering gum (*Eucalyptus ficifolia*) should, if at all possible, be given a place. Its gorgeous display of bloom is most attractive, and the tree is of compact growth, and seldom grows over 14 feet in height.

Bougardias, when flowering is finished, should be cut well back, and the soil around lightly forked over, giving a dressing of bonedust. Some good fresh soil may be scattered around them, or well-rotted manure or leaf-mould will answer.

In this issue we furnish our readers with the first notices of the great Horticultural Show recently held in London. The event is regarded as the biggest exhibition of the kind ever held in the United Kingdom, and was opened by Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary, on May 22nd.

Some idea of the importance of this great international event may be gathered from the charges for admission. On the first day two guineas, up to 5 p.m.; after that, one guinea; the second day, one guinea and 10; third day, 10; and 5; and so on, till the last three days, when admission was reduced to 1/.

Sweetpea seed, so far as we can learn, is of splendid germination this season. This was to be expected, as the English crop of seed was well harvested, and the bulk of the Dominion-grown seed was also well sowed. Should any of our readers have failed with their packets, we should like to hear from them.

AN INTERESTING GOOSEBERRY.

At a recent meeting of the scientific committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, Mr. W. G. Smith, of Dunstable, sent drawings illustrating flowers and fruit of a racemose form of gooseberry, which had been referred to previously as a hybrid between the gooseberry and the black currant on account of the thickly-produced clusters of very dark berries and their flavour, which was said

to be intermediate between the gooseberry and black currant. On careful examination of the fruit and flowers, he had, however, been unable to find any trace of black currant. The plant appeared to be wholly gooseberry, with flowers and fruit borne in racemes of from two to five. He could detect no black currant flavour, although the taste was delicious and strong. No oil glands are present on any part of this new form, and the fruits are perfectly glabrous. The pollen is exactly that of the garden gooseberry.

It flowers three weeks in advance of the black currant. The merit of the plant lies in its great fruit-producing properties, as on a given length of branch it produces more fruit in weight than probably any other bush extant. The colour of the fruit when ripe is deep, almost black maroon or dark mahogany, becoming black. The plant originated as a seedling in a market-grower's garden in the South of England, where it was regarded as a variety more curious than useful. Mr. R. H. Nichols of Dunstable has acquired the stock.



ECHINIUM TRUNCANTUM, EXHIBITED BY W. ASTER, ESQ., M.P., AND GIVEN AN AWARD OF MERIT BY THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.
W. J. Vasey, photo.