

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.

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.

COMING SHOWS.

Foxton Horticultural Association—

Second Bulb Show, Masonic Hall, Foxton, September 4.—H. C. Patterson, secretary.

Auckland Horticultural Society—

September 5, 6, and 7.

Cambridge Spring Flower Show—

Town Hall, Cambridge, September 20 and 21.—N. C. Marshall, hon. sec.

Horowhenua Horticultural Show—

Town Hall, Otaki, November.

Wellington Rose and Carnation

Club—Rose Show, November 12, Town Hall, Wellington. H. A. Fox and J. E. S. Lord, joint hon. secretaries.

Wellington Rose and Carnation

Club—Carnation and Sweet Pea Show, December 11, Town Hall, Wellington. H. A. Fox and J. E. S. Lord, joint hon. secretaries.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

A PRESS telegram states that the National Sweet Pea Society has appointed a paid secretary.

There has been a big run on Tecoma Capensis for hedging this season. Many nurseries have sold out of all their plants. There is no doubt this plant makes a fine hedge in suitable localities, but it won't stand heavy frosts.

Poor Man orange trees have been in great demand this season, and are hard to procure. Apart altogether from its usefulness as a preserving fruit, a specimen tree is highly ornamental, and well worthy of a place in the garden.

Roses have been selling freely. Many choice sorts are sold out, and, as usual, late buyers are left lamenting that they can't get the varieties they want.

There does not appear to be such a great extent of land being planted in fruit trees as one would expect in a growing country like New Zealand. Many are deterred from planting owing to the labour entailed in spraying and working land. Probably, also, the low prices obtained for peaches in the past season induced intending planters to "hang fire."

Daffodils are now in bloom. The early varieties are doing well, and with good weather the spring shows ought to be good. Many of the choice varieties are now to be found in the collections of amateurs in the Dominion.

Sweet pea plants are doing well, and we would remind growers for exhibition not to overmanure their plants. If we are to grow healthy, vigorous vines the plants must not be overfed. There can be little doubt that any disease we may have had here has been caused through overfeeding the plants.

Seed germination has been most satisfactory this season. We have, so far, not heard a single complaint on this

head; a good augury for a good crop of bloom.

We were rather dismayed to learn from an esteemed correspondent that an English expert predicted a big percentage of rogues for this year. It is to be hoped the prediction won't come true, for rogues are most vexations, especially when a grower only has half a dozen plants.

Expanding trellis work for training sweet peas and other plants is now being manufactured in Auckland. It is light and portable, and made in 10 and 12ft lengths by from 2 to 8ft high, 2½ to 3½ inch mesh. The trellis work can be folded up. It is not expensive, and appears durable.

Exhibition Sweet Peas.

W.H. Waingana.—Three or four shoots are sufficient if you desire first-class blooms. It is not advisable to give your plants any more manure until later in the season. When they are in bud apply a good fertiliser, which can be obtained from any of the seedsmen ad-

vertising in the "Graphic." Soot is one of the best remedies against slugs. If your soil is light, watering twice a week during the hot weather will be necessary.

Flowers of the Fig.

Has anyone ever sought for the flowers of the fig tree? If they have, and failed to find them, the reason is they are not visible to the naked eye. The flowers are really inside the so-called fruit, known as the fig. Pull off a young fig, cut it open, and inside, attached to the fleshy receptacle, the flowers will be seen. The flowers are fertilised by a small midge, which enters the eye of the fig.

CAMBRIDGE SPRING SHOW.

The Spring Flower Show, which is to take place under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, will be held in the Cambridge Town Hall on September 20th and 21st. Entries close on September 18th, with the secretary, Mr. N. C. Mar-

shall. An attractive schedule, provided with classes for narcissi, miscellaneous flowers (anemones, frezias, ranunculi, hyacinths, pansies, camellias, rhododendrons, etc.), a decorative class, another for pot plants, and also one for juniors.

SWEET PEA NOTES.

Mr. Walter P. Wright, in referring to the new sweet pea, Edith Taylor, says:—"I like it better than Audrey Crier by natural light, and under artificial light it simply killed everything. I have never seen anything more beautiful under a lamp than this exquisite sweet pea. The flowers shine with a tender and bewitching glow. The wings are rose, but the standard is carmine."

Mr. Wright thinks that Etta Dyke's long reign as the best white sweet pea is nearly over. In writing to the "Gardener" he says: "Up to this year I had never seen Muneymacker anything like as well waved as Etta Dyke, and have always noted it as 'slightly waved.'"



AN EXAMPLE OF THE USE OF SWEET PEAS FOR TABLE DECORATION.