

venir de Rosieriste, white, and Rose Vilin, a most delightful rose, almost pure white, with flowers produced upon erect stalks, a really remarkable rose which originated by crossing C. Testout with Catherine Mermet. Then there is James Ferguson, a sport of Caroline Testout, which received a silver gilt medal at the autumn show of the National Rose Society last year. It is a very light shade of pink, almost white, inside of petals, darker outside, and is a decided acquisition.

We are still looking for a yellow Testout, and probably this will be forthcoming ere long. Fran Philipp Siesmayer is a good novelty of Herr Peter Grossherzog Friedrich, from the same Lamberts, a sort of yellowish rose, and raiser, is a carmine Rose shaded yellow.

Then we have that lovely variety Madame Leon Pain, a rose for everybody, with most exquisite pink flowers, the base of each blossom golden yellow, which that variety of unique colouring Souvenir de Catherine Guillot has imparted.

Königin Carola has huge blossoms intermediate between C. Testout and Viscountess Folkestone, its parents; it would be a perfect show bloom were it not for a faulty centre which appears in almost every bloom. Mrs. E. G. Hill has beautiful contrasting colours, and Jonckheer J. L. Mock is the latest to claim parentage from C. Testout in rather a remote fashion. It is, however, a fine rose, perhaps one of the best new show blooms for some years.

Two excellent dark rose pink sorts are Marie Croibier and Veluwezoom, both rather deeper in colour than Mrs. W. J. Grant, but with Testout growth.

We now want a good yellow or cream, and a good velvety crimson of the Victor Hugo tint to make the Caroline Testout group one of the most useful for all gardens.

I must not omit to mention the climbing Caroline Testout, perhaps our best climbing large-flowered pink rose.

—“The Gardener.”

[M. Pernet Ducher recently won the Gold Cup at the International Show for a new rose named Mme. Edouard Herriot. It is to be named the Herriot Daily Mail rose.]

THE SWEET SULTANS.

All amateurs should endeavour to find space in their garden for those charming members of the Centaurea family, the Sweet Sultans. Their large, thistle-like blooms, delicately scented, give a wealth of colour. Marguerita bears heads of perfectly double flowers, each floret cut into long, finger-like segments, giving to the whole a refreshingly soft and beautiful appearance. The colours vary from lilac, pure white, light blue, and a mixed yellow and rose.

There are four extra good varieties, all brought out within the last few years, which should certainly be grown together. These are The Bridegroom, lilac or rose-pink, with white central florets; The Bride, snowy white, with pale cream centre; The Bridesmaid, clear, delicate lemon; and Honeymoon, bright yellow, with a golden centre. The flowers are, in each case, larger than the ordinary types, and the plants themselves are likewise taller, reaching a height of about three feet. They should consequently be staked to prevent them being beaten down by heavy rain, or tossed about by wind.

Simple Culture.

The ordinary garden soil, provided it be not too poor, will serve to grow these plants to perfection. If time and labour can be spared, it should be well and deeply dug, and a quantity of stable manure be worked in. This will ensure far more satisfactory results, and save the trouble of watering when dry weather sets in; indeed, save for staking the tall-growing varieties, nothing further need be done. The flowers, which are very useful for indoor decoration, and for bouquets, should be kept constantly cut.

Like all hardy annuals, the seed can be sown in the open border, where the plants are to flower, early in the spring. The seedlings must be thinned out, for overcrowding, even in the early stages, involves weak, straggling growth. To get the first and earliest blooms, however, the seed should be sown in the early autumn of the preceding year. The plants will then grow and be of good size to withstand the winter.

VIOLETS.

The violet is not very fastidious as to soil, when grown out of doors, although this needs to be well dug, and if it is enriched with manure the flowers will be all the finer. The wild violet is often found on moist, shady banks, in anything but an ideal position for flowering plants. Many inexperienced growers thus conclude that any position and any soil is a good enough for the violet when grown in the garden. It is true that violets may be naturalised in odd corners, in shady places, on the edge of paths; but, while the plant will grow there, they will produce only comparatively poor blossoms. To obtain good violets it is necessary to give them good cultivation, and for cutting for home use the stems should be of fair length. Most cultivators find that, although the violet grows chiefly in the shade, an open, sunny position is best for it in the garden.

The best time to make a plantation of violets is October or November. The violet increases itself, like the strawberry, from runners, and if these are pegged down in September they will be rooted and ready for planting out separately in October. Put them out 12 to 15 inches apart in a border previously prepared for them. The only attention needed during the summer months is to keep down all weeds and the surface soil loose by constant hoeing; to cut off all runners that appear, and to water the plants frequently in hot, dry weather.

Another method commonly practised is to divide the roots; this should be car-

ried out in September, choosing only the best and youngest crowns, as the divisions are called, and planting these separately, as for the rooted runners. It is necessary to pinch off all runners that make their appearance during the summer so that the plants may grow as vigorously as possible. Violets during the summer are very subject to the attacks of that pernicious little insect called red spider, and the best way to combat that is to see the plants are well supplied with water and to syringe them every evening in hot weather, using weak soot water for this purpose, say, once a week.

Varieties to be recommended for outdoor cultivation are:—Single—Princess of Wales, purple blue, large (Princess Beatrice, The Czar, and California are very similar); Admiral Avelan, reddish mauve; White Czar, white; La France, violet blue; double—Comte de Brazza, white; Marie Louise, pale mauve blue; Neapolitan, lavender blue. The single varieties thrive best out of doors. Some of the best for growing in frames to supply winter blossom are Marie Louise, Comte de Brazza, Neapolitan, Princess of Wales, Lady Hume Campbell, and Mrs. Astor.

HOW TO GROW HOLLYHOCKS FROM SEED.

Both the double and single-flowered hollyhocks may be raised from seeds, and grown as easily as sweet peas, while the amateur need have no anxiety about his seedlings being attacked by the fungus, which, unfortunately, destroys

so many specimens raised from cuttings.

If well treated, the seedlings grow exceptionally strong, and bear fine flowers profusely. They retain their massive leaves right down to the base of each plant, and so they form a splendid setting for the flowers.

There are no plants more suitable for growing near the back part of a wide herbaceous border, or in clumps in any kind of border. The deadly fungus which attacked the plants some years ago caused dismay amongst growers, many of whom quite gave up the task—for task it became of cultivating the hollyhock, as all their efforts met with failure. Then the work of raising seedlings began in earnest, and a very large measure of success followed, so much so that to-day one may, from a packet of seeds, raise plants and secure a glorious display of blossom almost as if by magic.

To ensure success, it is necessary to have a certain amount of heat, and this may be obtained from a hotbed under an ordinary frame in the open garden. In all cases the young seedlings must be kept safe from frost, as whereas frost does not kill old plants—unless it be very severe—it soon causes the death of seedlings, so that a moderate amount of heat is necessary throughout the early part of spring to hasten forward the growth, and obtain extra strong plants for putting out early in the spring. Knowing how to treat the young seedlings is a very important matter, and now you should prepare to raise them by sowing seeds in pans, which should be well drained and three parts filled with rich loam, a small quantity of sweet leaf soil being mixed with it, and some coarse sand, but no



A DECORATED BASKET WITH ORCHIDS, EXHIBITED IN THE FRENCH SECTION OF THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL SHOW.