

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 "Graph" 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 welcome.

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.

Johnsonville Bulb Show—September 11 and 12.—Rev. S. H. D. Perryman, Secretary.

Hamilton Horticultural Society—Spring Show, Town Hall, September 17; Summer Show, November 21; Autumn Show, April, 1913. Wm. H. Paul, Secretary and Treasurer.

Hutt Valley Horticultural Society—Spring Show, 18th and 19th September; Rose Show, 20th November; Sweet Pea and Carnation Show, 18th December; Autumn Show, April, 1913.—T. E. Barker, Wellington, Sec.

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.

Auckland Horticultural Society—Grand Summer Exhibition, Town Hall, December 6 and 7. W. Satchell, Managing Director, Swanson Street.

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.

GARDEN NOTES.

SEPTEMBER is one of the busiest months in the garden during the whole season, and every effort must be made to cope with the numerous important crops demanding attention. All plots where crops have been grown should be dug over; weeding must not be neglected, and crops planted last month will require thinning out and earthing up as they advance in growth.

Potatoes for main crop can be planted whenever the soil is in a dry and workable state. Kumera tubers can be started on a hotbed of fresh stable manure, over which six inches of fine soil, with plenty of sand should be spread. Plant the tubers in this, and they will soon start away, vigorously giving abundance of cuttings.

Continue sowings of peas every two weeks. Those already through the ground may be lightly mounded up and staked. Don't sow Kidney beans until the end of the month. Nothing is gained by sowing these too early.

Broad beans may still be sown where required.

Saladings.—Sow every ten days when a succession is required. Continue to transplant lettuce, and sow some more seeds of good summer varieties, such as Big Boston and Webb's Wonderful.

Cabbage and cauliflowers continue to plant out, also onions. Onion seed may still be sown in drills.

Sowings of carrot, beet, turnip and parsnip may be got in.

Sage, marjoram, thyme, and other herbs can be lifted and subdivided where required.

Keep strawberry beds free from weeds. Tomatoes, cape gooseberries, cucumbers, egg plants and peppers can be sown under a frame or glass house.

The Flower Garden.

In the flower garden ten-week stocks must be got in without delay, in order to secure a good show. Annual plants, raised under glass and hardened off, may be set in their flowering quarters. Old roots of dahlias may be divided and planted out, or these may be started in heat, and cuttings taken off later on.

Roses should not be longer delayed in pruning where this operation has not been attended to.

should off-sets from bulbs be cut off or pulled off. Wait until off-sets come away in the ordinary course. Bulbs thus treated would be weak and liable to take any disease going.

A suitable soil for Bouvardia is a mixture of about equal parts of good loam and leaf soil with about half a part of silver sand. Nip out the points of strong shoots, so as to form bushy plants.

An excellent remedy for mildew on roses is sulphide of potassium, dissolved at the rate of rather less than 1oz. to 1 gallon of soft water. Syringe well in the evening, and do not miss the undersides of the leaves. Be careful in using this mixture near white painted woodwork, as it leaves a stain which is not easy to remove.

branches in order to admit more air and light. Black currants are pruned by cutting away the older branches near the base, their place being taken by young growths, which should not be shortened.

The reference in the "Journal" of the Irish Department of Agriculture to the fact that a second crop of potatoes had been planted at one of the centres has created some interest among potato growers, and the opinion has been freely expressed that the production of two crops of potatoes on the same land in one year is impracticable. In a general way it is so, but under the conditions favourable to this method of intensive cultivation, it has been found both practicable and profitable. Some of the more enterprising of the Irish growers of po-



A BASKET OF THE LYON ROSE.

Shown at the National Rose Society's Exhibition. The blooms are finely developed, but too crowded.

Gladiolus bulbs can be planted in deep-dug soil. If animal manure is to be applied to these, it should be rotted and dug in before planting the bulbs. On no account should fresh manure be given. Bone and blood fertiliser is a good artificial to use. Gladiolus seed may also be sown. This is best done in rows, as the young seedlings are easier to attend to in the way of weeding, hoeing, etc. There is no difficulty in raising these beautiful flowers from seed, and they flower the second year. Provided really choice hybrid seed is secured, many fine flowers of great vigour and very long spike will result.

Lawns should be frequently rolled when the weather is dry.

At the annual conference of daffodil growers, Mr. Barr said: "On no account

If you cannot find out what insects are troubling you, place lettuce leaves about the garden at night, and you will find slugs on them in the morning. Empty matchboxes hung on the plants (slightly open) will trap earwigs, and slices of raw potato will, if buried just under the soil, trap a good many pests. But the best remedy for all pests is to water about twice a week with a solution of permanganate of potash. This solution will not injure the blooms if used very weak, while buds should be well syringed.

Gooseberries and red and white currants should have the side shoots cut back to two buds. In the case of young bushes the main growths are left about 9 inches or 1 foot in length; older trees that have reached their required size are cut back closer. If the bushes are too crowded, remove a few of the main

tatoes have succeeded in obtaining two profitable crops from the same land in one season, but the first crop is grown for the supply of the market in the usual way, and the second for the production of immature potatoes for seed purposes.

BASKETS OF ROSES.

Within the past ten years or so the Council of the National Rose Society has, with commendable wisdom, devoted special attention to the introduction of new methods of staging roses with a view to improve the exhibitions, and to ensure the blooms being presented to public notice in as varied and interesting a manner as possible. There has, from the first, been a general agreement among the members of Council that in