

fact, one of the best for exhibition purposes, provided it is not disbudbed too freely; as this is distinctly a rosy-lavender, I think there is room for both of these fine varieties.

Mrs Cuthbertson (Dobbie and Co.), a pink and white bicolor, well sustains the good opinion formed of it last season, and is easily the strongest grower and best flower in its class, though, like R. F. Felton, it must not be overgrown.

The variety Thomas Stevenson has been in such form and in such quantity this past season that it needs no comment from me, except to say that it will be interesting to test the two stocks, Holmes' and Dobbie's, to see which is actually the best under general cultivation. There seems to be nothing to challenge this variety's position at the head of its colour class at present, though in the Earl Spencer section there are several varieties that are said to supersede those already in commerce. Mella (Dobbie and Co.) and Barbara (Holmes) are both good flowers, and seem likely to keep their position until some clever cross fertiliser of the sweet pea gives them to us in sunproof form. There are signs that this is coming, as I have seen one or two seedlings that appear sunproof, but a summer like 1911 might dispel all our hopes.

Inspector (Dobbie and Co.) gives a great number of double standard flowers, consequently it appears very bright, and makes a good bunch; the colour is similar to that of Earl Spencer. King Alfred (Broadmore) is an exceptionally large orange-pink variety, and might be described as between Anglian Pink and Anglian Orange in colour. Lady Curzon (Broadmore) is a decided improvement on Menie Christie, but it is more of a bicolor than a self. Rose Diamond (Aldersey and Jones) is a very bright pea, very similar in colour to Inspector. King Alfred (E. W. King and Co.) is another of those very delicate sweet peas so useful for decoration, and may best be described as a Sybil Eckford Spencer, but the colouring is even more subtle than that variety, a shade of green being distinctly noticeable in it.

Coronation (R. Bolton) is a variety not quite so well-known as Charles Foster, Dorothy, and Prince George, but it is nevertheless well worth growing; it pleases me even better than the two latter; the colour is apricot, with a touch of rose or pink in it. It is very pretty, and after a few hours in water it makes an exceptionally good bunch. Annabella Lee (Alsen) is very similar to Dorothy, but, as growing here, it does not shorten in the stem so quickly, and the flowers come rather better spaced, the last-named often coming very much in pairs and close together.

The dark varieties are augmented each season, and the three most noticeable novelties are Brunette (Dobbie and Co.), a deep mahogany self, and very distinct; King Manoel (G. Stark and Son), a very deep maroon of large size; and Mrs Cowdy (R. Bolton), best described as an improved Black Knight Spencer. Either of these should prove a welcome addition to any collection. "Gardener's Magazine."

**SOWING LATE PEAS.**

It goes without saying that the ardent desire of every kitchen gardener, amateur or professional, is to maintain a continual supply of garden peas until the latest possible date in the season. Although a good deal depends upon the weather, this is a task which provides a good test of the gardener's skill, calling as it does for the exercise of considerable forethought in addition to the manual labour entailed. As in the cultivation of main crop varieties, the preparation of the soil for late sorts is a very important consideration, and the work must be thoroughly done to produce the best results. Trenches should be taken out to a depth of two feet, and plenty of well-decayed manure mixed with the soil, so that a deep, cool root run during the scorching days may be provided. The wider the trenches are the better, as this means, of course, so much more available food for the plants. On very light soils cow manure should be used in preference to the lighter horse manure; peas prefer a rooting medium somewhat inclined to be heavy.

**Kinds to Grow.**

This preparatory work is best done some time previous to sowing. Every seedman has special varieties of peas to recommend, but experience should be the best guide in this matter. Three well tried varieties that will be hard to sur-

pass are Gladstone, Masterpiece and Antocrat. Of course it does not follow from this that new sorts should be entirely ignored; the point is to rely on proved varieties for the crop, other kinds being sown in the nature of trials only.

**Sowing.**

Sow rather thinly on a fine, level surface. When the seeds are covered the top of the trench should be rather lower than the surrounding soil, so that when water is applied it does not run to waste. As soon as the seedlings appear dust all round them with soot and lime; or sifted coal ashes will do almost as well. Staking should be carried out early, and it is best to use sticks which stand rather higher than the stated height of the different varieties, for under good cultivation it is quite probable that these heights will be exceeded.

**Watering and Feeding.**

Watering will be an important business in a dry season, for moisture must be applied frequently and in sufficient quantities if the plants are to be kept growing in a healthy condition. Where practicable, mulching should certainly be carried out, saving as it does an immense amount of work in the way of water carrying, and at the same time supplying further nourishment to the roots of the plants. When the pods are swelling freely, great benefit will be derived from occasional applications of weak liquid manure. This should never be given when the soil is in a condition approaching dryness, or considerable harm may be done; therefore let a good soaking with clear water precede such applications.

**RADISHES.**

**HOW TO GET GOOD ROOTS.**

During the hot summer months, especially in light sandy soils, radishes should be grown in a border shaded from the sun. The soil should be made rich with well-rotted manure broken up and mixed with the soil.

Fig. 1 shows how clean and straight the growth of a radish root is in properly-prepared ground; and Fig. 2 how

worthless roots are, when grown in badly-prepared soil. When in contact with lumps of soil, bits of wood, or even fresh



WELL-GROWN AND BADLY-GROWN RADISHES.

straws, the roots begin to fork, and the crown is soon lifted above the surface. Furthermore, the best-shaped roots generally possess the smallest tops, and the ill-shaped ones the largest leaves. The prepared ground should be quite eighteen inches deep, then there will be ample moisture below.

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