

may be mixed with the top spit—say, 2 oz. of the first or second mentioned, and the same of bonedust, per square yard. Before planting and while the surface soil is dry tread it firmly down, so firmly that it may be walked on without the boot sinking in the least. Then plant the young plants very firmly, letting the ball of earth down low enough to allow the lower pair of leaves to rest on the surface. Remove footmarks when planting is finished, so that rain may freely enter the soil. After-attention will mainly be to keep the surface loose and free of weeds.

Feeding with liquid manure, or even mulching, is rarely necessary unless extra large flowers are desired. These are obtained by feeding and severely thinning the blossoms, neither of which operation is to be recommended for general utility purposes. Fed plants become gross and subject to disease and insect pests, and for the pleasure of most flower-lovers a considerable number of good flowers is better than a small number of phenomenal size. There are in any case varieties that produce naturally flowers large enough for any purpose. The plant grown without heavy feeding is usually the most thrifty.

In most places, except where late frosts occur, hardy flower-seeds may be sown in the open ground, annuals being more particularly referred to. This class of flowers is not sufficiently grown. Every one with garden space should sow as many as room can be found for. There are many very beautiful flowers to be had at a trifling cost, and many of them will drop seed and reappear, enabling the obtaining of fresh kinds at little cost, while still retaining such as are desired of those already grown.

Half-hardy subjects such as asters, &c., may be either sown in boxes or kept till early in November and then sown in the open ground, a mode of procedure that enables those who have no glass structure to get as good a show as those who have that advantage—unless, indeed, the very best use were made of it.

Dahlias should be attended to, as they will be starting growth. Divide the old tubers into pieces containing at least one bud and bed them in a nice piece of soil in a sheltered spot.

Gladioli should be planted—that is, the large-flowered autumn-flowering kinds. They like deep loamy soil, not overrich but not poor; a naturally good soil is best. Plant the bulbs so that they are quite 6 in. below the surface.

The various types of herbaceous iris may be planted. The chief race is the Japanese. These require really good soil: they will not thrive in poor or dry soil. The margins of a stream are best to their liking, where the roots can find unlimited water but with their heads fully exposed to sunlight.