

THE FLOWER GARDEN IN AUGUST . . .

sown in boxes. In most districts, however, sowing is better delayed until next month, as boxes of plants ready too early are only a nuisance and become starved before they can be set out. That applies especially if bedding is to follow wallflowers or other spring-flowering plants which are likely to continue flowering until later than had been expected. "If in doubt, delay sowing" might be the motto in sowing flower seeds for boxed plants. A young, strongly-growing plant will give much better results after being planted than one which has been half-starved and waiting about in its box to be planted out for too long. The sowing of seed in boxes will be dealt with fully in next month's "Journal."

Heaths which are becoming too tall and "leggy" can be rejuvenated by carefully packing soil in a mound between the main stems. The stems will soon root into the soil and the plant can then be lifted, pulled apart, and each rooted piece replanted.

"Nursery depth" is a term, sometimes seen in gardening books, which confuses the home gardener. It means the depth at which the plant was growing before it was dug up from the nursery. When a plant is lifted that depth is indicated by the appearance of a "soil mark" on the stem. Above that point the stem is relatively dry and usually darker in colour; below there the stem has quite a different appearance in both colour and texture. The soil mark is usually some distance above the uppermost root. When any plant is replanted it should be put in the ground at least as deep as it was before, as shown by the soil mark, and most plants are best put in a little deeper, with the soil mark just below the surface. It is a mistake to plant shallower or very much deeper than "nursery depth."

Tuberous begonias and gloxinias should now be turned out of last year's pots, where they have been resting. Shake the soil away from the corms and half bury them in boxes of potting compost to start into growth. Sprinkle the soil with tepid water to keep it just moist, and encourage the corms to start to grow.

Lawn edges should now be cut carefully to a new line with a sharp spade or half-moon cutter, but avoid removing more turf than is necessary to give a true edge. Every few years it may be necessary to build out the edge of the lawn again and return it to prevent paths and beds becoming unduly



wide. Lawn edges should always be cut at an angle of 45 degrees, sloping away from the grass; that produces an edge less likely to break down if it is stepped on.

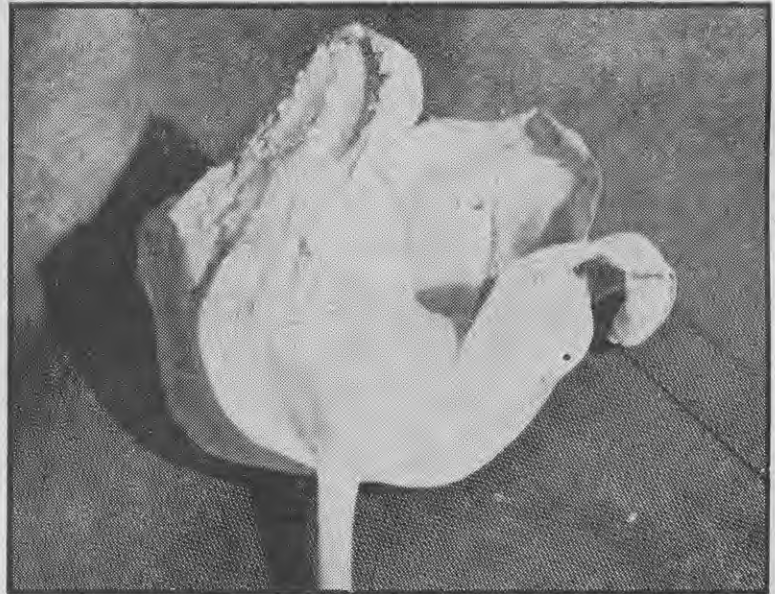
Roses can be pruned at any time in the winter when there is no further likelihood of severe frost, but as hard frosts can kill back the tips of rose branches, pruning is best left until the end of August or early September in districts subject to frosts.

Bush roses are pruned by cutting all the previous year's shoots to within

a few inches of older wood and cutting out weak pieces altogether. **Climbing roses** are pruned by cutting back all side shoots to within an inch or two of the main stem, but the main framework of older wood should usually be left unpruned unless an old branch can be replaced by a young, vigorous shoot produced the previous season. Old flowering wood should be cut out of **rambler roses** if that has not already been done, but it is better carried out in late summer immediately after they have flowered.

Shrubs such as rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas, which flower on the ends of the previous year's growths, should be pruned immediately after the flowers fade if pruning is necessary, but normally these shrubs require little pruning and should be cut as little as possible.

TULIP FIRE DISEASE



[Photo News Ltd. photo.]

Tulip fire disease can later cause spotting of the flowers, which ruins their appearance, and purpling or spotting of the leaves. The spread of this disease can be checked to some extent by keeping a very close watch for small, twisted, and distorted shoots, often covered with a fine grey mould. Those are the "primary infections" of the disease, and usually arise from bulbs which were slightly infected when planted. The primary infections appear above the ground at about the same time as the normal shoots, but stay small and distorted and finally die. However, they infect neighbouring healthy tulips with the disease if they are left, giving rise to a secondary infection on flowers and leaves. All small, malformed, or distorted shoots should be dug out very carefully with their bulbs and surrounding soil as soon as they are noticed, put into a bucket, carried away, and burned at once. That precaution will often reduce or prevent later damage to flowers and leaves.