

In districts where severe frosts are experienced the pruning of evergreen shrubs should be delayed until later.

Now is a good time to attend to the pruning and removal of unwanted branches of all deciduous trees.

Overhaul of Rock Garden

A general overhaul of the rock garden, if it has not been attended to already, should be proceeded with at once. All strong and rampant-growing subjects which tend to grow beyond their allotted space and to crowd out smaller but more treasured plants should be restricted to their proper confines. Replanting may require attention, and, if required, the pockets and interstices should be topdressed with a good compost of friable loam, leaf mould, and sharp sand. Close-growing alpine plants that tend to suffer from rot because of their foliage coming into close contact with the cold, moist soil should be protected by a thin layer of coarse sand or 3 in. quarry grit placed between the basal leaves and the soil.

A sharp look-out should be kept for slugs, which find the rock garden a safe and convenient harbourage for the winter months.

Care of Plants under Glass

Schizanthus which has been growing under glass for early flowering will require potting on and staking. To induce a bushy habit the tips of the leading shoots should be pinched out.

If they are forward enough, calcocarias should be potted on into 6 in. pots, in which they will flower later.

Pots or bowls of hyacinths, tulips, narcissi, lachenalias, and freesias should be placed under glass for forcing into early bloom as required.

Winter-flowering Plants

Two good, perfectly-hardy, winter-flowering herbaceous perennials are *Helleborus niger* (the winter rose) and *Iris stylosa*. Both are of such easy culture that too frequently little attention is given to them.



[Green and Hahn Ltd. photo.]
Hard-wood cuttings inserted in a trench in the open ground.

Though it will succeed in a variety of situations, the hellebore gives of its best when planted in a soil that is rich in organic matter and cool and moist at all seasons. Dryness at the root it does not like, especially during its growing season, which begins immediately after the flowering period and continues until early autumn. Open but sheltered spaces between bushes of rhododendrons or underneath the protecting canopy of foliage of such shrubs as the Japanese maples suits them admirably. A light mulching of fallen leaves in autumn not only protects the flowers from mud stains splashed up by raindrops but also causes an elongation of the flower stem, a valuable asset when cut flowers are required. The fresh young foliage develops with the advent of spring, and from then onward the plants should not be neglected. Copious waterings should be given during periods of dry weather, and as an aid to conserving moisture in the soil as well as to supply material for surface feeding a good mulching with compost or half-decayed farmyard manure should be spread among the plants during November.

Unlike the hellebore, *Iris stylosa* prefers a warm situation and a well-drained soil. Some gardeners believe that it will succeed in the poorest of

soils and for this reason it is too frequently given but casual attention. Though it would exist where many another plant would fail, it will respond to good treatment. When the plants are starved the flowers are fewer, of shorter stalks, of paler colour, and lacking in substance. It is an evergreen, producing fresh foliage each season, but the old foliage will persist for years, gradually dying and remaining mixed through the greener leaves, giving the plant an untidy and bedraggled appearance. To prevent such a state the old foliage may be cut over entirely a few inches above ground in spring as soon as the flowers are over. The young growth will follow immediately and remain fresh and green until the following year, when the process may be repeated. Experience over many years has proved that this practice injures neither the vigour of the plant nor its propensity for flowering. The delicately-textured flowers are so easily bruised and injured that when they are required for cut blooms they should be cut just before the petals unfold, and placed in water; within a few hours they will open out to their full beauty.

Autumn-flowering Plants

Escallonia montevidensis is a late-flowering evergreen shrub or small tree which is perfectly hardy and will succeed even in relatively-poor soils. The specimen illustrated at the head of this article is growing in a poor, sandy soil.

Amaryllis belladonna (the belladonna lily) is one of the most popular of autumn-flowering bulbous plants. It thrives best in a position fully exposed to the sun and in a soil that is perfectly drained and contains a considerable amount of gritty substance, such as rock fragments or coarse sharp sand. The bulbs should be planted just below the surface of the soil. Once established, they should remain undisturbed for years.

Plants Recommended by the District Council of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture for Planting in South Canterbury

Native Trees	Native Shrubs	Herbaceous Plants	Annuals or Biennials
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i> <i>Sophora tetraptera</i> <i>Dodonaea viscosa atropurpurea</i> <i>Hoheria lyallii</i> <i>Metrosideros lucida</i>	<i>Leptospermum scoparium keatleyi</i> <i>Chionanthus puniceus</i> <i>Notospartium carmichaeliae</i> <i>Senecio greyi</i>	Aster King George Erigeron Elsie Lychnis viscaria fl. pl. Salvia patens Carnation Otaki pink Meconopsis baileyi Campanula Telham Beauty Gypsophila Bristol Fairy Scabiosa caucasica Blue Mountain Helium Moorhein Beauty	<i>Lavatera Loveliness</i> Stock Beauty of Nice <i>Nemesia strumosa Suttoni</i> Margold Harmony <i>Phlox drummondii</i>
Evergreen Exotic Trees	Exotic Shrubs	Bulbous Plants	Plants for the Rock Garden
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> <i>Cedrus deodara</i> <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> and <i>C. elegans</i> <i>Arbutus unedo</i> <i>Acacia baileyana</i>	<i>Pieris japonica</i> <i>Camellia sasanqua</i> Hiryu <i>Chimonanthus fragrans</i> <i>Hydrangea</i> Heinrich Seidal <i>Rhododendron fragrantissimum</i> <i>Azalea mollis</i> Koster's Brilliant <i>Cotoneaster</i> Conspicua <i>Erica melanthera</i> <i>Magnolia stellata</i> <i>Spartium junceum</i>	<i>Lilium regale</i> Narcissus Soleil d'or Gladiolus Picardy <i>Nerine bowdeni</i> Iris Wedgwood	<i>Lithospermum</i> Grace Ward <i>Cyclamen neapolitanum</i> <i>Gentiana sino-ornata</i> <i>Pulmonaria angustifolia</i> <i>Erica carnea</i> Praecox Rubra
Deciduous Exotic Trees			
<i>Quercus balustris</i> <i>Prunus pissardi nigra</i> <i>Pyrus (Malus) atropurpurea</i> <i>Prunus serrulata</i> J. H. Veitch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>			

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