

as soon as it is ripe. To speed up germination the hard coat is nicked with a sharp knife to allow moisture to penetrate readily. In this way seeds which are hollow may be discovered and discarded. These seeds have a particular attraction for rats and mice and boxes of seed need some protection from them. As the seeds germinate two large, round, fleshy seed leaves appear, but the seedling is not ready for transplanting until the finer, true leaves are seen to be developing. Wintersweet lasts well when picked and used in vases; the scent gradually fades, but the flowers persist quite well.

Choisya ternata, known as Mexican orange blossom, is a handsome evergreen shrub growing to a height of from 5 to 6ft. For 2 months during winter it is covered with white, scented blossom and it has glossy green leaves right to the ground. It is a useful shrub on hard, dry banks and does equally well in wet positions, and furthermore will stand quite a heavy amount of salt spray in the atmosphere. Little or no pruning is required.

Daphnes

Daphne in its white and pink varieties (*Daphne odora* and *D. odora* var. *rubra*) is probably the favourite among scented shrubs. With care and attention it can be encouraged to grow and flourish in a wide range of soils. The ideal soil is one free from lime, well drained, and containing a good supply of organic matter. A situation in partial shade with a cool root run which does not dry out in summer is excellent. Daphne can be grown supported on a box framework or it can be trained espalier fashion against a wall. Alternatively it can be grown as a standard bush or encouraged to trail down a bank. Whichever method of growth is chosen, plenty of space should be allowed for development of



the bush. Often daphnes are planted too close to paths and the edges of borders and as they develop they encroach on lawn and paths. Allowance should be made for the bush to grow to a diameter of at least 4ft. Daphnes will not flourish in a wet boggy situation or in a hard, dry part of the garden. These conditions will

cause the leaves to yellow. Daphnes are also subject to a virus disease which causes mottling and at times unsightly curling of the foliage. The virus affection does not materially affect the growth or blossoming of the plant. Sufficient pruning is carried out when flowers are picked; moderately heavy picking keeps the bush flowering for a long period.

For colder districts *Daphne mezereum* does better than *Daphne odora*. A dwarf shrub of 4ft., it bears deep purple pink flowers along bare stems in spring and these are followed by bright red berries.

Daphne cneorum is a low-growing shrub which develops a mat of low, spreading branches and is covered with a mass of round clusters of deep pink fragrant flowers in November and December. It requires a position in full sun, with a cool, moist root run and a good supply of organic matter. It is an excellent subject on a bank or sloping garden.

Daphne genkwa is not scented, but it is a charming member of the daphnes. During winter it produces abundant clusters of tubular, mauve flowers on the bare, brown stems of the previous year's growth. While young it needs pinching back to develop a good bush. A slow-growing, delicately shaped shrub, it reaches a height of 5ft. It is fairly hardy and does well in free-draining soil in partial shade.

Diosmas

Diosma ericoides, known as breath of heaven, is a handsome evergreen shrub with pleasantly perfumed foliage. It is a native of South Africa and grows to a height of 3ft. *Diosma complexa* is the pink-flowered form. Diosmas are quite hardy and do best in a good garden soil in a sunny position. To develop a good shape the young plant should have the new

