



Many cacti may be reproduced by taking cuttings at this time.

diseases which attack chrysanthemums and which should be used every 3 weeks until flowering can be made by freshly mixing the following ingredients:—

Lindane emulsion,  $\frac{1}{2}$  fl. oz.  
Thiram wettable powder, 1½oz.  
Water, 4 gallons

### Dividing and Replanting Dahlias

As the risk of late frosts passes, the planting of dahlia tubers should be carried out. Tubers in boxes which have been induced to throw shoots should now be divided. A strong tuber with one or two shoots is all that is required for a good, vigorous plant. Shoots which have developed on old established clumps will benefit from the extra light, air, and nutrients which heavy thinning at this time will produce. Many of the attractive seedling and dwarf dahlias do not require staking, but the taller varieties should be staked at planting.

### Roses

The tender young growths which are developing on the rose bushes are very prone to attacks by rust, aphids, black spot, and mildew. Where the roses are growing near white painted wood-work wet sprays of sulphur or ferbam should not be applied. A suitable dust which could be applied to the roses every 3 weeks, with additional applications after heavy rain, can be made using:—

10 parts of 1 or 2 per cent. lindane dust  
9 parts of flowers of sulphur  
1 part of 50 per cent. thiram or captan

There are now on the market some very effective dusting machines, which simplify the task of keeping roses healthy.

### Window Boxes

Window boxes can be used to lend a splash of colour, especially to the kitchen windows and service area of the house. A useful arrangement where metal liners are available is to fill these liners with bulbs and spring-flowering material. At this time of the year the liners can be removed and replaced with a series of pots or another liner containing summer-flowering plants such as ivy-leaved and bedding geraniums, catmint, lobelia, petunias, and asparagus ferns. A loam which is rich in organic matter and coarse sand should be used to assist in retaining moisture throughout summer and also to provide good drainage. A light dressing of blood and bone is desirable.

Throughout summer the main requirement will be constant watering. If potted plants are used, this will be most easily effected by embedding the pots in sawdust, which should be kept moist. A light surface mulch of sawdust will prevent the soil surface from caking due to the pressure of water. Where sawdust is not available the pots can be soaked periodically in a bucket of water to ensure saturation.

### Lawns

Vigorous lawn growth is now to be expected and it will be necessary to use a grass catcher when the sward is being cut regularly. If spring top-

dressing has been delayed, it should be done now, a mixture of 3 parts by weight of sulphate of ammonia and 1 part of superphosphate being applied at 1oz. per square yard. In addition to stimulating the growth of the finer and more desirable lawn grasses this dressing assists in eradicating many weeds, thus avoiding the use of hormone weedkillers. In the restricted area of a small garden the dangers of spray drift and the contamination of containers make the use of hormones undesirable.

### Care of New Lawns

For the first 6 months of their growing life new lawns require special care. When the grass is 1in. to 1½in. tall a light rolling will help to consolidate the soil and encourage the young plants to tiller out into bushy growth. After a few days, when the grass has recovered its erect stature the first cut can be made. The mower must be sharp and set at least ½in. higher than normal, or the plants will be severely damaged. In subsequent cuttings the blade should be gradually lowered.

If the new grass shows signs of a yellow or reddish-brown colouring in the leaves, this will probably indicate that the plants will benefit from a dressing of ½oz. of sulphate of ammonia per square yard, which can be repeated every 2 months for the next 6 months. Lightly hose the fertiliser off the leaves to prevent burning.

### General

Continue the planting of gladiolus for summer flowering. The soil round earlier plantings should be lightly forked. Supporting stakes should be inserted where necessary.

Prune the deciduous shrubs after they have flowered to make room for and encourage the growth of young and more vigorous shoots. The *Prunus* spp. generally do not require more than shaping and the removal of damaged or diseased portions. All large wounds should be covered with petroleum jelly to prevent the entry of fungi while the wound is healing.

The staking of perennial plants should keep pace with their growth. Make sure that tall plants like delphiniums and hollyhocks are staked before spring winds damage them.

Many cacti may be reproduced now by taking shoots from any part of the plant and rooting them in small pots. The cuttings should never be inserted deeply in the soil and if support is required, small pieces of bamboo will be satisfactory. If the cut ends exude sap, they should be dipped in powdered charcoal before they are planted.

A sharp lookout should be kept for insect pests and fungous diseases, and the appropriate sprays applied immediately.