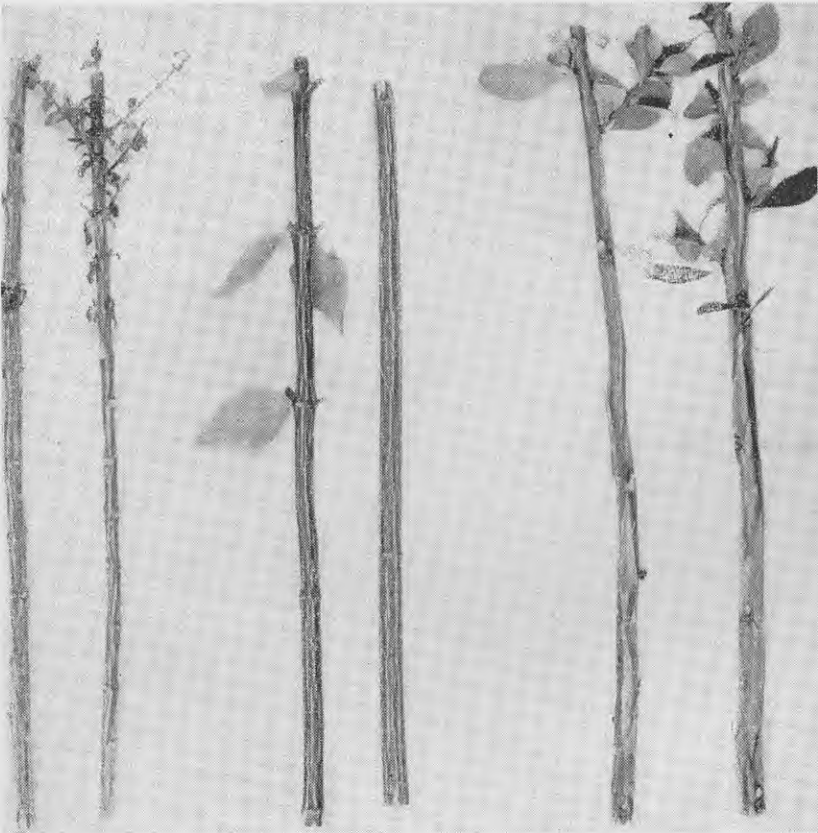


GARDEN WORK IN MAY



Desirable types of cuttings of hedge and shelter plants. Left to right: Lonicera, abelia, and escallonia.

▼ A rooted layer of *Daphne odora rubra* being severed from the parent plant before it is planted out.



plants which it holds. On fine days the frame can be opened up by 10 a.m., but it should be closed in the mid afternoon to prevent loss of heat. On dull and cold days it should be opened an inch or two only for ventilation. If heavy frosts are expected, a covering of scrim placed on top of the glass will prevent the frost from penetrating.

Plants in Glasshouses

Under glass young bushes of fuchsias, geraniums, and cherry pie can be pinched back to train them into bushy plants. Pinching plants back entails the removal of the growing point down to a node below which it is hoped a number of shoots will develop. Old bushes of these plants should have a restricted water supply so that they may have a resting period.

Seed of cyclamen for next year's flowers and of chaubard and marguerite carnations, pansies, and violas for spring planting can now be sown. A pinch of fungicide such as thiram should be shaken in each packet of seed to aid germination.

Cyclamen plants which are coming into flower should be given a light, airy position under conditions which are not too warm. When watering care should be taken that water does not accumulate in the top of the corm and encourage rotting.

General

In light warm soil outdoors seed of larkspur, godetia, clarkia, nigella, and antirrhinums can still be sown. Self-sown seedlings and plants from earlier sowings can be thinned out or transplanted to other positions.

Cinerarias should be inspected regularly for the presence of the woolly-bear caterpillar. If numbers are few, hand picking is the easiest way of control, but if this is not practicable, dust or sprays of DDT should be used.

Layering of plants can be continued this month and any plants which were layered last year and have developed roots can be severed from the parent plant. Under good conditions they could be transplanted immediately, but it is generally better to wait until early spring to transplant them.

Preparation for the planting of trees and shrubs should be continued. Where compost is available it should be incorporated into the future root area and allowed to settle down before planting. Compost now in the bins should be turned and mixed as the bins become full. Material given its second turning now should be in good condition for using in spring.

Trees and shrubs especially should be examined closely for the presence of insect pests such as scales, mealy bugs, or thrips and sprays should be applied as required.