

duced and they are almost impossible to eradicate without using chemical weedkillers.

Fairly full cover can be recommended for plain concrete walls, and vigorous trailers such as aubrietia, morning glory (*Ipomaea leari*), arctotis, and *Dimorphotheca ecklonis* are suitable.

Stone and brick walls should be partly covered only and sprawling plants of compact habit are more suitable and can be used with the less vigorous trailers, such as alpine dianthus, *Campanula* sp., *Sedum* sp., *Mesembryanthemum* sp., *Alyssum saxatile*, gazania, and the trailing rosemary.

Further information on the layout of hill gardens and suitable plants is provided in the February 1959 issue of "The Journal".

## Work for September



September is a busy but interesting month in the flower garden, as many different plants are beginning a new season's growth cycle. This is most marked in

the colder areas, where the dormant season is more definite and spring blossoms are even more welcome. Because of the warmer and earlier spring in northern districts sowing and planting of summer flowering plants can begin earlier.

### What to do with Seeds

With a little care several packets of seeds of annuals can give a most effective display over a long period in summer at little cost. If there is a

suitable warm and sheltered position in the garden, the top 6 in. of soil could be enriched with sieved compost and lightened with sand if necessary before the application of fertilisers and the sowing of seed.

Such a position is, however, often the treasured place for spring flowering plants and for this reason and also the fact that seedlings are not so easily lost when in boxes, it is generally recommended that seed be sown in boxes which are 2 to 4 in. deep.

The boxes should be cleaned and sterilised by watering with 1 part of formalin in 49 parts of water. A layer of coarse rubble, leafmould, or coarse sievings from the compost heap can be placed in the bottom to assist drainage.

When making a mixture in which to sow seed it is not so important to follow a recipe as to achieve a mixture which is quite open and yet has some body. Loam gives body and supplies small quantities of nutrients. Organic matter also gives body and helps retain the moisture and added nutrients. A

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guide for the making of such a mixture is:

- 2 parts of sieved fibrous loam
- 2 parts of sieved leafmould, peat, or compost
- 1 part of coarse sharp sand plus
- 1½ oz of superphosphate and
- ¼ oz of garden lime

per bushel of mixture (about an apple box). All ingredients should pass through ½ in. sieve. When sowing in the open ground twice this quantity of superphosphate and lime should be used per square yard. Boxes should be filled level with the mixture, the soil should be consolidated with the fingers, especially at the sides and corners, and then smoothed and firmly levelled with a float (flat piece of board).

The seed should be dusted with thiram, sown thinly, and pressed into the seedbed with the float before it is lightly covered with sieved mixture. The box should then be placed in 2 in. of water (a washtub is suitable) and left until moisture shows in one or two places on the surface. The box should then be removed, covered with glass and then newspaper, and placed in a warm place in no danger of drips from the roof. When seedlings begin to show the paper should be removed and two days later the glass can be removed.

### What Seeds to Sow

Under glasshouse conditions the above method can be used for seeds which require warm conditions for germination. Outdoors, hardy plants which are to be transplanted, can be sown in boxes, while hardy plants and those which develop best when sown where they are to flower can be sown in the open. Of this latter group, linum, viscaria, mignonette, and love-in-the-mist are useful for sowing in pockets among permanent plantings to give an added splash of colour and interest.

### When the Seeds are up

Seed sown previously may now be up and should be given frequent atten-

▼ Bottom of seedbox lined with sievings of compost to assist drainage.



▼ Firming the newly sown seed into the box with a float.

