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A Beautifully Thought-Out Garden.

WORKING IN THE SHADE CULTURE OF CINERARIAS

By ELIZABETH VAN BENTHUYSEN.

There is hardly a garden plot of any size that does not possess some spot that resembles the back of an elderly bachelor's head when the hair has started to point toward the advisability of purchasing a toupee. Always one finds these bald spots under the shade of trees, or where the sun has little chance to make its influence felt.

It is what might be called a "back-yard" effect, because the shady back is peculiarly the property of the back-yard. Early in the morning and late in the afternoon the sun takes a pop under the branches of the trees. At other times the umbrella-like big fellows keep the ground free from the life-making rays.

Early in the spring, before the leaves come, the bare spots are sure to have some sun. That is the signal to plant bulbs in the autumn so as to be ready for the sun. By scattering crocus bulbs and letting them fall as they will, one gets a better effect than by carefully arranging them in rows. While tulips, narcissus, white, lavender and yellow crocuses and some native growths that are almost of the weed family may be utilized.

The fever-few will stand the winter and will seed itself. It begins to bloom during the month of June. Foxglove, monkshood and larkspur are also among the possibilities for the bald place. And then there are hollyhocks and almost any of the lily family.

Bleeding heart grows and blossoms in the shade and rose bushes will thrive in the zone where there is half shade and half light.

It is always necessary to plan for the garden during the days when the weather and the cold blasts make it impossible to work out of doors. A little study of the possibilities during the idle weeks will prepare the amateur for a campaign in the open that will get astonishing results.

Of course, one should have impressed the fact that it is not possible to accomplish everything at once. A simple, well-studied program, taking into consideration the kind of plants with which the best results are obtained in your particular section, is sure to bring gratifying results.

If the worker knows just exactly in advance what is to be done, the actual execution of the plans becomes more a matter of pleasure than of toil.

I am firmly of the opinion that there isn't a spot of any size in any section that cannot be made to show artistic results if the proper amount of intelligent study is given to its improvement—and the proper amount of study is precious little.

The main thing is to decide to do something.

By G. GEOPRY.

In the culture of the cineraria the one mistake so often made is that of sowing the seed too soon. The plants thus raised, more often than not, make a rank growth; this is not in any sense desirable. By sowing in May or June, plants large enough for all decorative purposes can be had. In after treatment the aim should be to secure as hardy a growth as possible.

Cineraria is one of the most useful and ornamental of plants, with flower of the richest and most brilliant colors and shades and of the finest textures.

For succession, it is well to make sowings of the seed from May to September, but the main sowing in July.

The cineraria is a very fine plant for the conservatory and for house decoration. The coloring of this plant endears it to growers; there are the lovely and rare cornflower-blue tints in profusion, rich crimson and blood red in many varieties, deep rose and shell pink, and a wonderful combination of pink and light-blue shades. There is also a lovely single pure white variety that is worth considering for your all-white bed.

THE EASTER LILY

The lily is without a rival among bulbous plants. For statelyness of habit, beauty of form and variety of coloring. Many of the species are delightfully fragrant. Lillium candidum and Lillium tigrinum prefer a deep, rich loam. The others do better in a light, well-drained soil. They are easily grown and require little care. Though they are considered a very hardy plant, it is well to protect them against frost in winter by a covering of litter or ashes.

Lillium auratum cannot stand manure, but does well in ordinary light soil. All lilies prefer a partial shade and the tall ones must have some protection from high winds. The lilies are effectively planted among shrubs. They are excellent house plants and require for pot culture a compost of loam and peat in equal parts, with the addition of some sand.—E. V. B.

THE PETUNIA

The petunia is one of the most accommodating of plants. It takes root easily, grows rapidly and makes a fine show in a hurry, even if planted late in the spring. If you have a corner you don't know what to do with, prepare the soil carefully, scatter petunia seeds upon it, water with a fine hose and watch the seeds grow. Pull the big weeds; the little ones will be smothered by the rapid growth of the flowers.

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