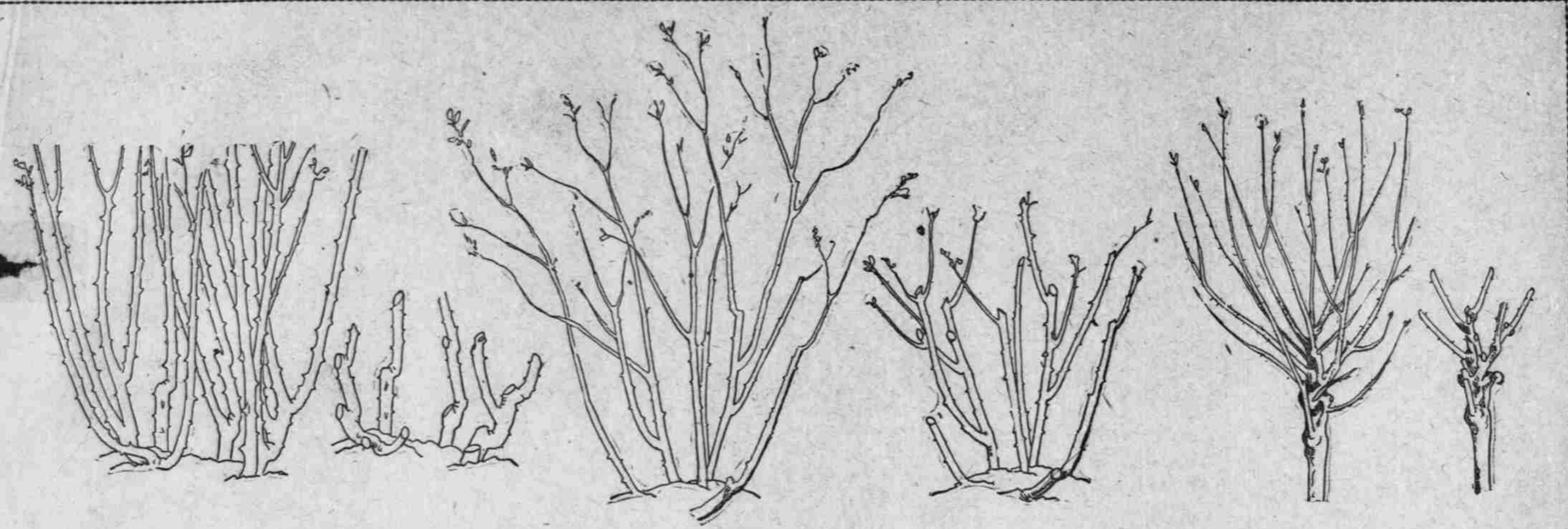




NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE THE ROSES

Frederick V. Holman Tells Exactly How This Important Work Should Be Done.



1—AN EXHIBITION ROSE BEFORE AND AFTER PRUNING.

2—A GARDEN ROSE BEFORE AND AFTER PRUNING.

3—A STANDARD H. P. ROSE; THE SAME ROSE PRUNED AND UNPRUNED.

NOW is the time, this year, at Portland, to prune rose bushes, especially the hardy varieties. I say this year because it is a little earlier than the usual time for most years. We have many years when the average temperature is about the same as during the last three months. This season we have had no cold weather. The lowest temperature was 3 degrees below freezing point; that is, 29 degrees above zero. As a result most of the rose bushes in and near Portland are full of sap and have begun to grow. The chances are very great that we shall not have any weather cold enough to damage the rose bushes. A wet snow will not hurt them. Should we have a "freeze up," which is exceedingly unlikely, nearly all rose bushes probably would be killed to the ground, whether pruned or unpruned. It is best to prune now, for if the mild weather continues the bushes cannot be pruned later without hurting them. In this article I cannot go into the question why it hurts a rose bush to prune it when growing strongly.

Ways of Pruning.

The more severely a rose bush is pruned the stronger will be the new shoots. The weaker or less vigorous a bush is the more severely it should be pruned. The general rule for pruning is, therefore, prune severely the dwarf growing varieties and less severely the strong growing varieties. There are some exceptions to this rule which I shall mention further on in this article. The first thing in pruning rose bushes is cutting away all the decayed and thinning the crowded and useless shoots. The decayed wood is to be cut away to keep the decay from spreading; the crowded shoots are those "top" close together, which will interfere with the growing and the blooming. Only one shoot should be left where two or three or more are very close together. It is of the utmost importance to remove the shoots in the center of the bush, so as to let in the light to the center of the bush. The useless shoots are mostly the unpruned shoots and the lateral branches which interfere with each other. In cutting away shoots they should be cut several inches below the surface of the ground, so they will not send up new shoots. There are one or two objects in pruning a rose bush: One is to produce specimens or exhibition roses, that is, comparatively few flowers, the other is to obtain good roses and quite a number of them. The latter are called, for convenience, for garden decoration. In this article, which is preferable, the owner must decide. He cannot have magnificent specimens and plenty of them on one bush. A most excellent book on roses, entitled "Roses for English Gardens," was written by Miss Gertrude Jekyll and Mr. Edward Mawley. The American edition was published in 1902 by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York. They have kindly given me written permission to have printed in this article plates above herein which are taken from plates printed in that book. Miss

Jekyll's idea is to use the rose largely for garden decoration. The technical part of the book is written by Mr. Mawley, who is a well-known English rosarian. It was in honor of his wife that the famous rosarians, Alexander Dickson & Sons (Ld.) named the new beautiful pink tea rose Mrs. Edward Mawley.

Pruning for Specimen or Exhibition Roses.

For exhibition roses almost all varieties except climbing roses must be very severely pruned; that is, leaving from three to eight buds or eyes above the ground or from six to 18 inches in height. From three to six shoots only should be left. A few varieties, mostly strong growing ones, do better not to be severely pruned, as they are liable to run to wood and not produce good flowers. Among such roses which I suggest should not be severely pruned are the following, which I have taken from the second edition (published in 1902) of "The Book of the Rose," written by Rev. A. Foster-Melliar, rector of Sprothampton, Suffolk, England. This book is written on the idea that the rose is not a plant for garden decoration. In the estimation of the Rev. A. Foster-Melliar, "the value of the rose is in the glory of its individual flowers," and "the idea is not the rose for the garden, but the garden for the rose." It is a good book, with many valuable suggestions. I have made these quotations to show that even for exhibition purposes, he thinks the roses I shall mention should not be severely pruned. Of course, they should be pruned as severely as possible. The roses which Rev. A. Foster-Melliar recommends should not be severely pruned are as follows:

HYBRID PERPETUALS.

- Clie, Duke of Edinburgh, Duke of Teck, Mme. Gabriel Latast, Margaret Dickson.

HYBRID TEAS.

- Captain Christy, La France, Viscountess Folkestone.

TEAS.

- Anna Olivier, Mme. Cochet, White Maman Cochet, Safrano.

BOURBON.

- Seur. de la Malmaison. A rose which, I think, should be added to this list is Ulrich Brunner. Plate No. 1 shows an exhibition rose before and after pruning.

Pruning Roses for Garden Decoration Most people prefer roses for garden decoration. Most roses for exhibition purposes not only require severe pruning, but also great care and special treatment, both before and at the time of blooming. A person must be quite an expert and have considerable knowledge of the different varieties of roses and their peculiarities before being successful in producing exhibition roses. It requires much less time and care to prune and grow roses for garden decoration. Such are the soil and climatic conditions in and around Portland that by not pruning severely and digging around the

bushes each Spring and giving them very little care during the rest of the year will give beautiful roses for several months each year.

Pruning Standard Roses.

What is called a standard rose is a rose budded or grafted above the ground on another bush, usually on the Dog Rose or briar (Rose Canina) or on M. neri. Standards are usually from two to four feet in height. Standards may be pruned for exhibition or for garden decoration, as the bush varieties are pruned. Plate No. 3 shows a standard hybrid-perpetual rose unpruned and also pruned for producing exhibition roses.

In pruning bear in mind that the top bud left on a shoot will grow first, and in the direction in which it points. Cut the shoot just above the top bud you select. Be careful that this top bud looks outward; that is, from the center of the bush. In pruning some regard to symmetry should be observed. The shoots toward the center and back of the rose, that is, farthest from the sun, should be longer than those in front and on the sides.

In this article I have not attempted to treat pruning except on general lines. What may be called scientific pruning requires a great deal of study and experiment. By study I do not mean studying books alone. I mean also the study of the different roses and their peculiarities and the best methods of pruning each. I have endeavored to give briefly what I know of pruning from reading and from my own experience to assist others in growing roses, not only for their own pleasure, but to make Portland "The Rose City."

Undoubtedly the best, most complete and comprehensive book on roses ever published is "The Rose Garden," by William Paul, one of England's best professional rosarians. I have the tenth edition of this book, published in 1902. It is a large quarto of nearly 600 pages. Twenty-four pages of this book are devoted especially to the subject of pruning. Mr. Paul in his book says: "I believe pruning to be the most important operation in rose culture, and, at the same time, the most difficult to obtain the mastery over and apply with success."

The best instruments for pruning are a sharp pruning knife, but it must be kept sharp; and a small, thin saw, smaller and so wide as a saw made for pruning trees. It is much easier to use a scissor, or pruning shears, especially the kind in which the blades has a drawing motion, similar to the motion one gives to a knife blade in pruning. It is of the greatest importance that any instrument used in pruning should be sharp, so as to make a clean cut, and not bruise nor lacerate the bark.

Plant the Cuttings.

The parts of the rosebush cut away may be planted, and you will get a bush on its own roots from almost every cutting. It is true some roses do not propagate readily from cuttings, but most of the roses grown in Portland will "strike" readily, especially if planted with a "heel" to the cutting. Dig a place in your garden, about the depth of a spade, where the soil is rich but without adding manure. The place should be where the cuttings will not get a great deal of sun. Put in the cuttings about four inches deep, leaving two buds above the ground, being careful that the side of the cuttings, which on the bush was toward the sun, is planted toward the sun. Be careful that the end of the cutting which is put in the ground is cut even with a sharp knife. It is not necessary that there be a dormant bud at or near the end of the cutting which is put in the ground. Probably a better way is to plant the cuttings in boxes. Take boxes of any shape from six to eight inches deep. Bore two holes with a small auger, or bit, in diagonal corners of the bottom of the box four inches apart. Cover these holes with small stones, or bits of crockery, so as to prevent the earth from running out. Fill the box with good garden soil and plant the cuttings in the holes, one in each hole. The advantage of using a box is that it can be easily moved, and after the cuttings have started to grow, they may be moved so that the cuttings will have more sun.

Whichever way the cuttings are planted, they must not be allowed to become dry. It will probably not be necessary to give them water until the middle of May. By pursuing either of these methods, the cuttings will be well-rooted by next Autumn, and can then be planted in the open ground. If all rosebushes in and near Portland were properly pruned now and the cuttings planted, the rosebushes in Portland would be increased several times this year.

One reason why cuttings grow so easily at Portland, in the open, is that the rainfall keeps the ground moist, and the mild, even temperature, which does not hurt the cutting, allows it to strike. The number of roses in Portland grow from cuttings which in other parts of the world, in the open or in hot-houses, will not strike. In hot-houses roses from cuttings are grown by means of what is called "bottom-heat," i. e., heat applied to the sand in which the small pots are placed, in which the cuttings are put. Some of the roses which Baron von Rothschild is one, are extremely difficult to propagate with bottom-heat, whereas the Baroness Rothschild may be propagated here, with comparatively little difficulty. In the open, a friend of mine, one of Portland's enthusiastic amateur rosarians, about two years ago put in about 800 cuttings in the Spring, and all grew except three.

Spray the Bushes.

After the bushes are pruned, it is well to spray them with Bordeaux mixture, or other proper spray. By properly spraying, you keep off a great deal of mildew and the yellow leaf. Rosebushes are liable to become affected with scale, not only the native scale, but the San Jose scale. If you have a few roses, a small sprayer can be obtained from the plant stores, and you can also obtain the proper spray. If you have many bushes, it may be well to have a professional florist spray your bushes. By several people clubbing together and hiring a gardener, he, in one day, can spray a number of yards, and the cost will be small for each person. About the only caution in spraying at this time of

the year is that the spray should not be too weak, but not so strong as to damage the growing shoots.

Do Not Prune Climbing Roses.

Climbing roses should not be pruned. If a climber grows too rank, stalks may be cut out or shortened. If pruned as other roses are, as a rule, they will run to wood and have but few flowers. In addition, a climbing rose is most beautiful when it grows as it desires. The shoots and branches may be tied up, but, so far as possible, they should be allowed to spread, and some of the branches be left to hang gracefully. This they will do if they are allowed to do so. I have four Mrs. Alfred Carriere bushes, two of which have not been pruned for many years. One of these bushes is about 30 feet high, and the other is about 20 feet high. A view of them in full bloom would, I think, convince any one that climbing roses should not be pruned. I was compelled to shorten the two other bushes because they grew higher than the trellis. That climbers should not be pruned is the recommendation in nearly all books on roses which I have seen.

Climbing Roses Should Be Planted.

In order to beautify Portland, great quantities of climbing roses should be planted, against fences and near the houses. If planted near the house, a high trellis may be erected or a framework made of three-quarter-inch galvanized pipe, which can be made by any plumber. When this latter framework is placed in position, wire-netting may be hung from it and securely fastened at the corners. The roses will be trained to the netting, or against the trellis, and in the Spring the shoots and branches can be easily tied to the netting or to the trellis. Climbing roses require comparatively little care, except the Marchal Niel. This rose requires a great deal of care and attention, and results are often disappointing. The care and attention necessary to the Marchal Niel will take care of several of the other climbing varieties. In this climate nearly all the varieties are sufficiently hardy, even those which in most places in this latitude are considered to be tender. The two climbing roses I would especially recommend are Madame Alfred Carriere and Glorie de Dijon. There are now climbing roses of nearly all colors known to roses. The names of the different varieties are too numerous to be mentioned in this article. Many of the bush varieties have produced climbing roses. A climbing Caroline Testout, an unusually strong grower, and become well-known varieties of climbing roses. Any catalogue will give you the names of these roses. A climbing Caroline Testout has been originated in California, which is said to possess all the other qualities of the bush variety. The Climbing Kaiserin Aug. Victoria (nicknamed Mrs. Robert Ferry) is also a very fine climber here.

Most climbing roses are inexpensive, and many a humble cottage could be made an attractive place, and if the cottage has not been painted for many years it would not be known and white, and will completely cover the cottage. In planting a climbing rose it is well

to dig a large and somewhat deep hole, say four feet square and three feet deep. Fill this hole with rich garden soil, or top soil from a meadow, and well-rotted manure, and it will require no further treatment for many years.

The southeastern part of France, near Nice, and the northwestern part of Italy, near Genoa, are commonly spoken of as the Riviera. It has almost the same latitude as Portland, the difference being less than a degree. It is famous for its mild climate and beautiful surroundings. It is a favorite winter resort for English people. In the Riviera great numbers of climbing roses are grown. These are one of the charms of the Riviera, and the blooming of these climbing roses attracts large numbers of tourists every year. All varieties of climbing roses grown in the Riviera can be grown in Portland with practically no protection, and will bloom as well as in the Riviera. It would make Portland famous as a rose city if climbing roses were grown in great quantities, and it would also be a source of great pleasure to the Portland people.

It is still a little early to plant roses, except very strong, root-budded, dormant plants, or field-grown bushes. It will probably be several weeks yet before the soil and the weather are suitable for planting roses grown in hot-houses. If small plants are obtained directly from the hot-houses, it is well to plant them until the weather is somewhat settled, and it has become warm. Planting such roses too early is "making haste without speed."

New Varieties of Roses.

I have been asked to give a list of good new roses, which are not mentioned in the Portland Rose Society's pamphlet, "Roses at Portland, Oregon; and How to Grow Them." I give even the following short list with some hesitation. I have tried many new varieties the past few years. Most of them have been disappointing, and I have discarded them. Some have given promise, but like precocious children, have failed to "make good." Some new roses have come to stay, and yet the chances as to any one new rose being a fine rose, so as to become an universal favorite, are largely against it. The following new roses, I believe, are really roses of superior quality. I have tried them, and so far I have found them very satisfactory, and, yet, any or all of them may ultimately be discarded. I suggest them, I do not warrant them. They are:

Prince de Bulgarie, a hybrid-tea, is a rose in form similar to Souv. de President Carnot, but having a center of a color of the Fenice des Jardins, which have been awarded the first prize at the last Paris Exposition. It is spoken of very highly, both in the English and American catalogues. It was originated by Fernand Ducher, of France. Franz Deegen, a hybrid-tea, is a seedling from that grand rose Kaiserin Augusta Victoria. Its outer petals are about the color of the Fenice des Jardins, while the center is of a beautiful orange yellow. If it fulfills its promises it will be the yellow garden rose of the immediate future. It is a different rose from Perle Von Godesburg, which is said to be a sport from Kaiserin Augusta Victoria. The latter I have not tried, but some of

the catalogues say its color is not as satisfactory as its introducer announced, which was that it is a yellow Kaiserin Augusta Victoria. Franz Deegen was originated in Germany, but it was introduced in this country by Messrs. E. G. Hill & Co., wholesale florists, Richmond, Ind. It has taken many prizes in this country.

Souvenir de Pierre Notting is a ten rose, said to be a cross between Marechal Niel and Maman Cochet. It is a very vigorous grower, inclining to a climbing habit. It is a peculiar shade of deep apricot yellow, with orange yellow shading. It was originated by Souperet & Notting, of France. It has been awarded several gold medals in Europe. This rose must not be confounded with the old, well-known hybrid perpetual rose, Pierre Notting.

Mlle. Germaine Trochou is a hybrid-tea. It has long, shapely buds. Its coloring is hard to describe. Its general tone is yellowish, with golden and reddish colorings in the center. This rose has not been widely advertised until this year. It is a rose of great promise.

Each of these four new roses are strong growers. It is unfortunate that many beautiful new roses, such as White Lady, are such weak growers. I shall discard it.

Madame Deraps-Matrat so far I have found to be very unsatisfactory in growth and in flower. I have ten plants of it. This is the most beautiful amateur rose I have seen in the Eastern rose-growers nicknamed "Yellow Maman Cochet," and advertised it as belonging to the Cochet family. It does not belong to that family. It is not even a step-child of that family. It is not a founding, for it has a name of its own and a respectable mother. I have tried it for two years. I shall give it another trial this year. If it does not do better the coming season, I shall discard it.

There are several new roses of great merit which have been introduced in Europe, but are not yet on sale by the retail florists in this country. The most notable of these new roses is Mildred Grant, a hybrid-tea. It was originated by Alexander Dickson & Sons, Limited, of Newtownards, Ireland, and sent out by them in 1902. They are now the best rose originators in the world. Almost every one of their roses is of unusual excellence and beauty. They say it is the finest rose that they have originated. One of England's most noted amateur rosarians has written me of its beauty. It is described by its originator in their catalogue as: "Clear, silvery white, edge of petals shaded and bordered with pink; bloom are of enormous size and substance, with high-pointed center, and last long in good condition; the petals, which are of unusual length, are perfectly shell-shaped and very massive." I am informed that there has been such a demand by the Eastern florists to obtain plants of Mildred Grant for growing in their rose under glass, that none have been seen in the retail trade. It is to be hoped it will be on sale to the public in 1905. I have been fortunate enough to procure several bushes of Mildred Grant direct from the originator.

I am trying several new and untried roses in Oregon, which I have procured from Europe. If any are of unusual excellence I shall be pleased to give the names.

FREDERICK V. HOLMAN.

WANTS PORTLAND GARDENS BEAUTIFIED WITH ANNUALS

A PRACTICAL FLORIST MAKES A PLEA FOR FLOWERS THAT NEED LITTLE CULTIVATION

THE lengthening days remind us that Spring is near at hand, and the swelling buds give proof of it. Now is the time to begin thinking about the Summer garden and to decide just what we will grow in it this year. Roses—they go without saying—but it is not fair to the beautiful flora of this state to confine ourselves entirely to them. Why not bank the corners of yards and lawns with beautiful annuals? Why not fill the backyard, which is so often unlovely, with bright and cheerful flowers which will give brilliant coloring and delightful fragrance all the Summer months? These are hundreds of beautiful annuals which for a little attention will pay you back tenfold for the trouble it has been to sow the seed and give them water to drink. They will furnish you blossoms for your house and give a picturesque appearance to your entire property.

A mansion without suitable garden flowers is like soup without salt, and the poorest but grown over with vines and flowers gives a most pleasing appearance. To work among flowers has a refining influence upon a person; to sow, transplant and name these beautiful creations of God and to observe how grateful these little plants are for the favor one shows them, is a lesson well learned. Is it not revivifying to a man who has toiled all day at business to work when evening comes among his pets?

There are in this city wealthy, highly educated and refined ladies who can be seen in the Spring and Summer working in the garden with a trowel, spade and rake. They want to sow the seed themselves, transplant the tender plants and justly claim the credit for themselves when friends admire their beautiful flowers. The annual plants are the easiest to grow for the amateur. Most varieties are sown about April. They bloom the same season and die the same Fall or Winter. The perennial plants are more difficult to grow, but once well started they are as a rule most lasting and more easily cared for. The varieties of both are manifold.

Annuals. It may not have occurred to many that flowers and plants are subject to mode or fashion. Just like dresses or hats, only the changes are not so frequent. If we look back only two decades we see flowers in great variety, which were stiff in appearance, like the camellia. Today such varieties have disappeared from the market almost entirely. In those days flowers with regular form and petals arranged with mathematical exactness were sought, but now they are opposed. At present, flowers with irregular petals, luxuriant growth and habit are in demand. The difference between the old variety, which were stiff and small, and the later varieties, such as Washington Needle, Ostrich Feather or Giant Comet, and the American branching varieties is most noticeable. The new varieties are nearly as good as medium-sized chrysanthemums; they bloom from early in August until late in November and come in all colors, except the distinct canary yellow. Asters are without doubt the most grateful flowers among the annuals. They are very showy in the garden and as cut flowers last longer than almost any other variety. The seed should be planted in the beginning of April in a warm, sheltered position, and when large enough transplanted during the latter part of April or the beginning of May. Young plants can be bought at reasonable prices at any reliable florist's.

Mignonette. As asters are not fragrant, it is advisable to have some mignonette sown near them to add to their bouquet. Mignonette may be sown in April, in the beds where it is to bloom. It germinates easily and blooms until the frost kills it. One of the best varieties is Machel. It grows dwarf, pyramidal, and is very fragrant.

Pansies. Can anyone recall the small, old-fashioned pansies? Compared with the up-to-date varieties, such as the Odier, Casier and Dupont, one wonders how the old ones could ever have been admired. Pansies should be sown in September, transplanted in October, and bloom in the early Spring. Many have been blooming in Portland all winter, the winter having been unusually mild. They can also be sown

and transplanted for late Fall blooming. Another plant which requires the same treatment as the pansy is the forget-me-not, or Myosotis. The delicate azure blue of these blooms always adds to the appearance of the garden, and howlfuls of them are pretty in the house. One of the best varieties is the Victoria (Myosotis Azurea Victoria).

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