

ROSES AND FLORAL CULTURE IN PORTLAND

BY LEONE CARR BAKER.

THE subject of roses and rose culture in Portland, which excels every other city in the world with the perfection and loveliness of this queen of flowers, is not one to be handled with any degree of detail in a brief article. Rather one might write books on the subject, and then not have told all.

But there is no reason why anybody who has garden or lawn room, may not grow lots of roses in Portland. Some of the very best ones only ask for a little care and plenty to eat.

Plant your roses next month, unless the ground is too wet, then April or early May will suffice. It is best always to plant bushes of large size, two or three years old, but since these are naturally more expensive, small, cheaper bushes give splendid results in a few years if properly cultivated.

There is no short easy path to the realization of this exacting plant, and its production and perfection require time and attention. Roses want rich soil. Any good garden soil will do, that having a loamy subsoil being desirable.

If one can plant only one variety, let that one be the Caroline Testout, a rare beauty, blooming all Summer until December, and preserving its wonderful pink throughout the season's hottest days. Next is La France, a pink rose, which excels the Caroline Testout in perfume only. The Madame Cochet is a beautiful pink rose with long, large buds. The Duchess of Brabant is a rich producer, the Papa Gontier is a constant bloomer of light cherry-red in the Spring, turning into an exquisite shell-pink with the late Fall days. Jolie d'Or is a beautiful salmon pink rose of small size which grows in great profusion on large bushes. Its perfume is most exquisite.

The Viscountess Folkestone is one of first importance among the continuous blooming roses. Very similar to it is the Souvenir de President Carnot.

The Kaiserin Augusta Victoria is a yellowish white rose, as is also the White Maman Cochet and Marie Van Houette. These are all continuous bloomers, and are particularly lovely in the Fall.

Of the yellow roses one may select the Sunset, a tea rose, Perle des Jardins, and perhaps best of all the Beve d'Or, often-times called Golden Chain, which is a constant bloomer and hardy grower.

Of the dark red roses there are few which are continuous in bloom. The Liberty, which only ceases to bloom with the coming of frost. Others are Pierre Guillot, a hybrid tea rose and the General Jacqueminot, which is commonly known as Jack.

Another crimson rose of magnificent beauty is the Ulrich Brunner, which excels in all respects the fashionable American Beauty, and which grows profusely, with large sized flowers. The Ulrich Brunner is not a full bloomer, but lasts into July.

Climbing roses are never continuous bloomers, but last until Fall, particularly if watered and attended to in the Fall.

One of the best climbing roses is the Gloire de Dijon, a hardy plant, needing for its best results, a northern exposure.

Another, which needs a strong southern exposure is the Madame Alfred Carriere, an almost white rose. This plant does not bloom well until the bush is about 2 years old, when it produces a profusion of flowers.

A red climber, which is highly satisfactory in results is the Gloire de Maygottin. The Marechal Niel does not do so well in Portland as other climbing roses, since it is not a hardy plant.

A great number of the showy annuals are especially well suited for growing in masses, while the dwarfed varieties make beautiful borders for walks or flower-beds. Much depends upon the judicious selection of seeds and the arrangement of the beds. In purchasing seeds, always buy the best and get each different color in a separate package.

Hardy annuals develop readily and are usually sown in May or earlier, directly in the open ground where they are to grow. Florists very frequently sow various kinds in the early Fall, and winter the young plants in cold frames. They may also be wintered beneath a shelter of evergreen boughs or leaves.

The half-hardy and tender annuals both require a great deal of warmth for their germination and growth. Like the hardy variety, they may be sown in the open ground, but not until the weather is settled and the earth thoroughly warm. A few of the annuals thrive in partial shade or where they receive the sunshine for half the day, but the majority of them do best in sunny situations.

Flowers usually succeed in a sandy loam, made rich with well-rotted manure which should be made fine and thoroughly mixed with the soil. A soil thus prepared will remain moist and loose, so that flower seeds, which are generally small and delicate, will germinate and grow with vigor.

While a very great per cent of the annuals may be sown directly in the open ground, some of the sorts especially the tender ones will flower earlier in the season. Sow the majority of these about the middle of March, but some must be sown in February. A sunny window or a porch answers where only a few are to be grown, and this is especially true of seeds planted in March, but it is much more satisfactory to have a hotbed if possible. The greatest danger with early grown plants is that of drawing up or general plant weakness from crowding.

annuals. It will succeed in almost any soil and gives a continuity of the most brilliant bloom from June until killed by frost.

Very few plants will make such a gorgeous display during the Summer months or furnish more flowers for cutting than the verbenas. Start the seed in the house, or under glass, early in the Spring, and transplant when the plants are three or four inches in height. They continue strong and healthy until destroyed by frost. The

verbenas is a half hardy perennial, but is usually grown as an annual.

Because of the long time it takes for the seed of verbenas to germinate the advisable plan is to buy the plants and set them out in moist, shaded places.

Probably no class of plants enjoys greater popularity and is more widely grown than the annual poppies. As soon as the ground has been prepared in the Spring poppies may be sown where they are to remain.

Canterbury bells are perennials, and are artistic additions to walk borders and edges of beds.

Hardy annuals are those which can be sown in the open ground. Half hardy annuals are those which should be started early in the house, conservatory or hotbed, and transplanted to the garden in settled warm weather.

Biennials grow from seed, sown from June to August, flower, ripen their seed and die the next year, though some varieties bloom the same season if sown early in gentle heat.

Hardy biennials will winter in the open ground without protection.

Perennials grow from seed and continue flowering annually for many years after the first season. Some varieties flower the first season if planted early in gentle heat.

Half-hardy biennials require the protection of a cold-frame or cool-house during Winter.

Hardy perennials can remain in the open ground during Winter without protection. Half-hardy perennials require the protection of a cold-frame or cool-house during the Winter.

Tender or greenhouse perennials require window or greenhouse culture, free from frost during Winter, and thrive in the garden during the warm months.

Plants are usually ready to be transplanted when they have made a growth of two inches.

Lay in freely a planting of hardy phlox. New seedlings come up every year, and if saved in a few years one could have hundreds of novel varieties. In the late Fall, after they have blossomed all Summer, cut down the stalks; others will come up and blossom later. The phlox is a universal favorite, and will thrive best in rather poor soil, only it must have plenty of water.

The heliotrope is a deliciously fragrant flowering plant, used for beds and cutting, and is most durable.

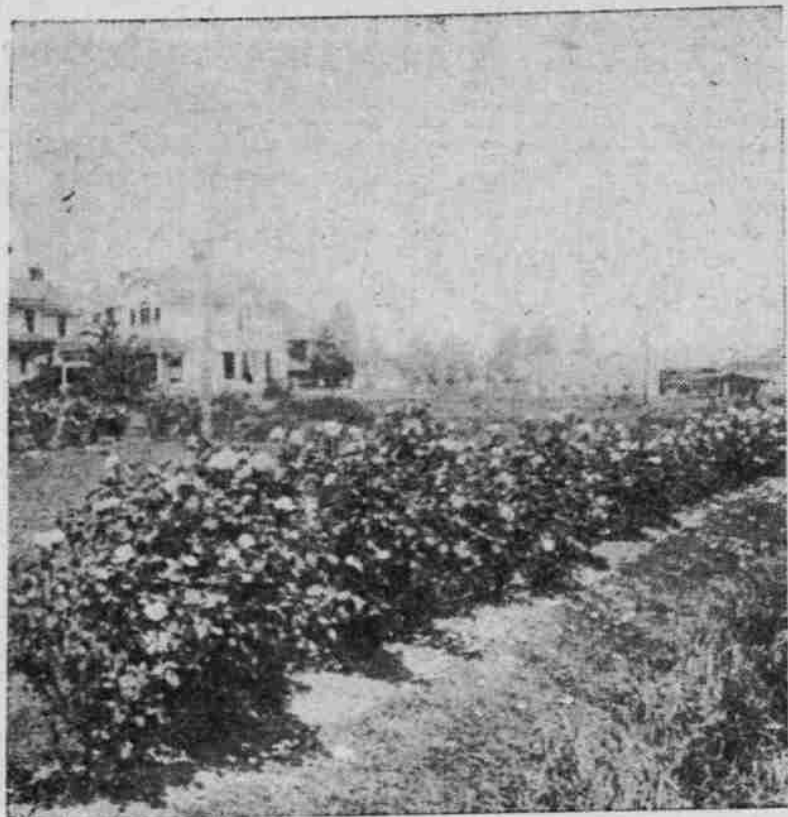
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growing, with handsome foliage, and for Fall blooming has no superior. Seed sown in March or April and transplanted to open ground will produce plants three to five feet high by September, which thereafter, and until November, will yield hundreds of blossoms three inches across; they are of various shades, from pure white to purplish crimson. Both foliage and flowers are unsurpassed for bouquets and vases.

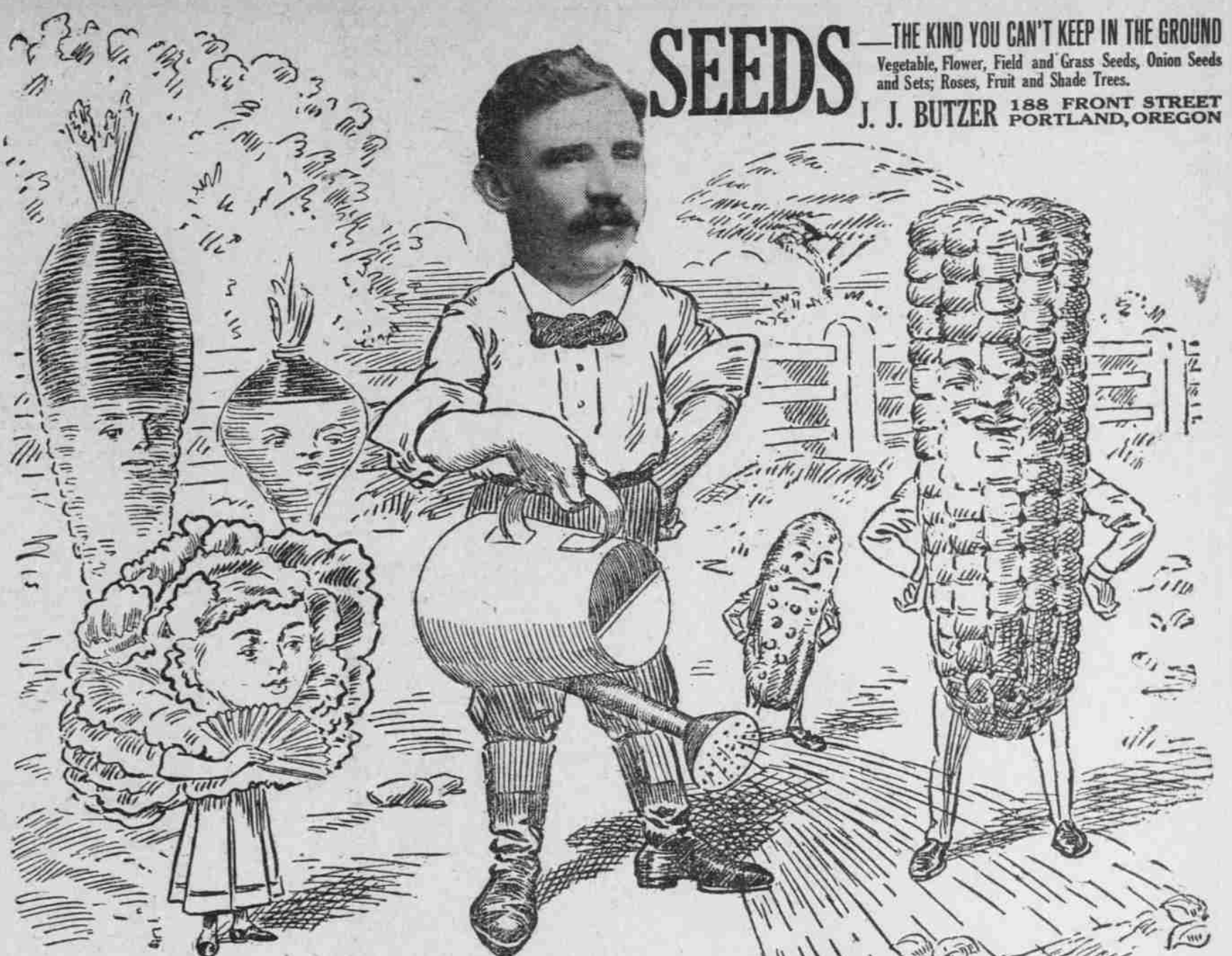
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