

# **VICK'S FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN**

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Vick's flower and vegetable garden by James Vick

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**JAMES VICK**

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AND VEGETABLE  
GARDEN**



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## ANNUALS.

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## PERENNIALS.

1, AQUILEGIA; 2, PERENNIAL PEA; 3, DIGITALIS, (FOX GLOVE); 4, DOUBLE PINK; 5, PERENNIAL  
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## TENDER BULBS.

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## LILIES.

1, HUMBOLDTI; 2, THUNBERGIANUM CITRINUM; 3, WASHINGTONIANUM; 4, PARVUM; 5, EXCELSUM;  
6, THUNBERGIANUM GRANDIFLORUM; 7, LONGIFLORUM; 8, ACRATUM; 9, RUBRUM.

## HOLLAND BULBS.

1, 2, POLYANTHUS NARCISSUS; 3, NARCISSUS PORTIENS; 4, TRUMPET NARCISSUS; 5, 6, 7, 8, EARLY  
TULIPS; 9, LATE TULIP; 10, DOUBLE YELLOW TULIP; 11, PARROT TULIP; 12, CROCUS;  
13, SINGLE HYACINTH; 14, SCILLA.

## VEGETABLES.

1, WAX OR BUTTER BEANS; 2, PEAS; 3, PIE PLANT; 4, SWEET CORN; 5, HATHAWAY TOMATO; 6,  
PURPLE-TOP TURNIP; 7, COS LETTUCE; 8, WATER MELON; 9, CAULIFLOWER; 10, HUBBARD  
SQUASH; 11, SUMMER CROOK-NECK SQUASH; 12, FIELDS-KRAUT CABBAGE; 13, EGG PLANT; 14,  
LONG GREEN CUCUMBER; 15, 16, MUSK MELONS; 17, CELERY; 18, BELGIAN GREEN-TOP CARROT;  
19, LONG BLOOD BEET; 20, TURNIP BEET; 21, CALIFORNIA RADISH; 22, OLIVE-SHAPED RADISH;  
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THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS is one of the few pleasures that improves alike the mind and the heart, and makes every true lover of these beautiful creations of Infinite Love wiser and purer and nobler. It teaches industry, patience, faith and hope. We plant and sow in hope, and patiently wait with faith in the rainbow promise that harvest shall never fail. It is a pleasure that brings no pain, a sweet without a snare. True, some fail to realize their hopes, but these failures are usually partial, never embarrassing, and are only such as teach us to study more carefully and obey more strictly nature's beautiful laws. Thus we gain, first, wisdom, and then success as the results even of our failures. I have endeavored in a plain and pleasant way to give some suggestions on the philosophy of vegetation that I think will prove valuable, revealing the causes of past failures and insuring future success. Indeed, I have endeavored in the pages of the FLOWER GARDEN to make the subject so plain as to render failure next to impossible, and success almost certain. Experience, however, is the great teacher. The book of nature is open, but its wonderful beauties and mysteries are revealed only to the careful student. Every species of plants has peculiarities which must be

studied, and while we can give a few general principles we can furnish nothing that will compensate for the pleasure and profit to be derived from work and study in the garden. Above all things, we caution our readers against over-confidence. No one has less confidence in his own skill and knowledge than the experienced gardener. Every season he seeks for new facts; every year adds to his store of knowledge. Do not, for a moment, think that the purchase of a few seeds and the perusal of any work on flower culture will make a florist. The purchase of a drug store and a medical library will not make a physician, nor does the possession of paints and canvas constitute an artist. To become skillful in any art requires both study and practice, and this is especially true where we have to deal with nature's laws. The study of Agriculture and Horticulture has engaged the attention of the wisest from the earliest ages, and yet what wonderful discoveries and improvements have we witnessed in our own day; and we are still learners. Let us all profit by the lessons of the past and become every year better prepared for the duties and responsibilities of life, more fitted to conquer its evils and enjoy its pleasures—learn to plant more carefully and reap a richer harvest of pleasure and profit.

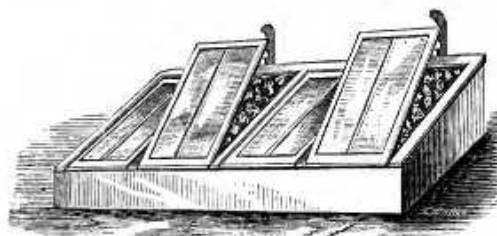


## SUCCESS IN FLOWER CULTURE.

There is great pleasure in success, while failure causes disappointment and pain. It would afford me pleasure to teach every one how to succeed in every case in one short lesson, but this may not be. A little difficulty in its attainment sweetens success, and of this sweetness cultivators usually have a full share, for they often have to contend against unfavorable weather, insect enemies, and a host of adverse circumstances. The most skillful sometimes obtain success at considerable cost of labor and patience, while failures are more common than welcome. Many of my readers are of limited experience, some of them just commencing to love and cultivate flowers, and while a few fail, I feel surprised and gratified at the very general success—a little proud, perhaps, at having done something to train up an army of successful florists all over our happy land, the fruits of whose peaceful labor beautify every landscape and perfume every breeze. I have endeavored to make this interesting subject so plain that all may understand the conditions on which success in floriculture may generally be assured.

### SELECTION OF SEEDS.

The selection of seeds is an important matter, and on the wisdom of the choice success or failure may depend. Those who have little experience should invest money cautiously and in the more hardy and popular kinds, such as Asters, Balsams, Stocks, Petunias, Zinnia, &c., with a few of the more tender kinds, just for trial. This advice will sound strange to my old friends but these will please remember that the wisest knew but little once, and cannot now boast



HOT-BED OR COLD-FRAME.

of excess of knowledge, and that one-half my readers are young people, with no experience, yet thirsting for knowledge. I am anxious to encourage this noble army by a little success rather than to discourage them by a large failure, for it is an army larger and more glorious than any that has ever ravaged the earth with fire and sword, and stained its fair bosom with blood. My desire to spread the love of flowers all over this favored land is far greater than

my care to make a few dollars. Half-a-dozen flowering plants, well cultivated, will give pleasure, while a hundred neglected, or ill cultivated, will be a source of pain.

Always be careful to get seeds suited to the purposes for which they are designed. If a climber is desired to cover a fence or trellis, the Morning Glory, the climbing Nasturtium, and similar strong growing vines will answer the purpose and give good satisfaction; while some of the more tender climbers will not be likely to come up if planted in such a situation as this, and if they do happen to grow, will not cover the place designed for them, and disappointment will be the result. If the object is a brilliant, showy bed on the lawn, or in the border, the Petunia, *Phlox Drummondii*, Verbena, &c., will meet your wishes; while a bed of Mignonette, or any of the smaller or less showy flowers, will be entirely out of place. If flowers of taller growth are desired for a showy bed more in the back-ground, the Zinnia, the French Marigold, the Gladioli, &c., are admirably adapted for the purpose, while some very beautiful, low, modest flowers would be worthless. Grave errors are sometimes made, and good flowers condemned merely because they are out of their proper place. I have known people to sow *Calceolaria* and *Cineraria*, and other very delicate seeds, in the open ground, not knowing that they require the most careful treatment in the house, and sometimes tax the skill even of the professional florist.

### THE SOIL AND ITS PREPARATION.

The best soil for most flowers, and especially for young plants, and one almost absolutely necessary for seed-beds, is a rich, mellow loam, containing so much sand that it will not "bake" after hard showers. If we have not such a soil, we must use the best we have, and advantage must be taken of the various plans to ensure the germination of seeds, which we shall describe. It is





also useless to try to grow good flowers on a poor, or a hard, unbroken soil, or in a bed choked with weeds. In either case the plants become dwarfed, arrive at maturity too early, and flower and ripen their seeds before they have attained half their natural size, and about the time a good robust plant would be forming its buds. Such a soil can be much improved by a little sand, or ashes and manure, and by pretty constant working. It must not, however, be handled when too wet. Always drain the flower garden so that no water will be on or near the surface.

#### SOWING SEED.

This is a very important matter, and one in which the young florist is the most likely to fail. Some old and professional florists make sad work in starting seeds, for knowledge is not

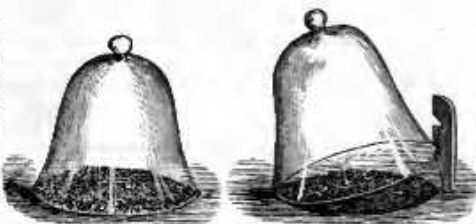


BOX HAND-GLASS.

SQUARE HAND-GLASS.

only necessary, but care and attention. One "forgot" may ruin a whole sowing of the choicest seeds. Of course, there are some kinds of seeds that are robust and will grow, no matter how they are treated, just as our weeds grow and thrive under ill treatment; but others require kind and proper treatment, just as almost everything desirable does in the animal as well as in the vegetable kingdom. Many seem to think that seeds will grow anywhere and under any circumstances. They have seen the farmer make a hole and throw in the corn, and in a little while it was up and growing vigorously; they have learned that the seeds of our native trees and weeds grow without planting and care; and from these facts they get the idea that it is of little consequence how or where seeds are sown, so that they are in the ground. But these should consider that the seeds used by the farmer are usually larger and produce stronger and more robust plants than those of the florist, and thus are enabled to bear more hardships and to live under more unfavorable circumstances.

Still, farmers are fast learning that the better they prepare the ground, the more carefully they sow their seed, and the more they study the nature and wants of the plants they cultivate, the better the crops. Another fact should be remembered—that not one seed in a thousand sown by our forest trees and shrubs, produces a living plant. We cannot afford to purchase costly



SEEDS PROTECTED BY GLASS BELLS.

seeds and lose such a large proportion, which would be the result if we should plant in the same manner. Our weeds are prolific, very tenacious of life, and able to propagate themselves under the most unfavorable circumstances; otherwise they would not be generally known as weeds. Most of our troublesome weeds are of foreign origin, the seeds being brought here by accident. The larger part thus introduced have lived for a season and perished unnoticed, while the hardiest became naturalized. If the florist would be satisfied with only the most hardy and prolific flowers, such as would take care of themselves, then he might pursue a careless system of planting and cultivation, and fill his grounds with Dandelions and Poppies; but he craves



PROTECTED BY POTS.

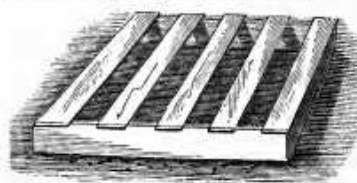
flowers that are not natural to our climate—those that flourish in warmer climes and under more genial skies—their dazzling beauty, their delicious fragrance, must be secured at almost any cost of time and labor. This is well; but having made up our minds to possess the treasures, we must pay the price—we must study their habits and treat them accordingly. None need feel alarmed at these remarks, or think themselves incompetent to the charge of such choice plants without hot-beds, green-houses and professional gardeners. We have known ladies, who, with but little pretensions, equalled the most distinguished florists. There seemed to be magic in their fingers, and everything they touched flourished. It is true that a hot-bed, if properly managed, is of great aid in effecting the germination of seeds, and it is well all should know why this is so.



#### CAUSES OF FAILURE.

In the first place, however, we will examine reasons why seeds often fail to grow. If seeds are planted *too deep*, they either rot in the damp, cold earth, for the want of warmth necessary to their germination, or, after their germination, perish before the tender shoots can reach the sun and air; and thus that which was designed for their nourishment proves their grave.

If the soil is a *stiff clay*, it is often too cold at the time the seeds are planted to effect their germination; for it must be understood that *warmth* and *moisture* are necessary to the germination of seeds. Neither of these will do alone.



SEEDS PROTECTED BY LATH FRAME.

Seeds may be kept in a warm, dry room, in dry sand or earth, and they will not grow. They may be placed in damp earth, and kept in a low temperature, and they will most likely rot, though some seeds will remain dormant a long time under these circumstances. But place them in moist earth, in a warm room, and they will commence growth at once. Indeed, if seeds become damp in a cold store-room they rot, while if the room is warm they germinate, and thus become ruined, so that seedsmen have to exercise great care in keeping their seeds well aired and dry. This accounts for the "sprouting" or "growing" of wheat in the sheaf, when the weather is warm and showery at harvest time, and shows why farmers are so anxious for good harvest weather, so that they may secure their grain perfectly dry. Another difficulty with a heavy soil is that it becomes hard on the surface, and this prevents the young plants from "coming up;" or, if, during showery weather, they happen to get above the surface, they become locked in, and make but little advancement, unless the cultivator is careful to keep the crust well broken; and in doing this the young plants are often destroyed.

If seeds are sown in *rough, lumpy ground*, a portion will be buried under the clods, and will never grow; and many that start, not finding a fit soil for their tender roots, will perish. A few may escape these difficulties, and flourish.

All of the foregoing cases show good reason for failure, but there is one cause which is not so apparent. The soil, we will suppose, is well prepared, fine as it can be made, and of that loamy or sandy character best fitted for small seeds. We will suppose, too, that the seeds were sown on the surface, with a little earth sifted over them, and that this was not done until the season was so far advanced as to furnish the warmth necessary to secure vegetation. Under these very favorable circumstances many seeds will grow; and if the weather is both warm and showery, very few will fail. But if, as is very common at the season of the year when we sow our seeds, we have a succession of cold rain storms, many of the more tender kinds will perish. A night's frost will ruin many more. If, however, the weather should prove warm and without showers, the surface will become very dry, and the seeds, having so slight a covering, will be dried up and perish as soon as they germinate, and before the roots attain sufficient size and strength to go down in search of moisture. Of course, the finer and more delicate seeds, and those natural to a more favorable climate, suffer most.



SEEDS GROWING IN POTS.

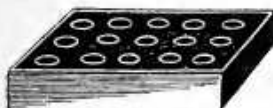
#### HOT-BEDS AND COLD-FRAMES.

It is to overcome the evils above suggested that hot-beds are useful. By being protected at the sides and ends with boards, and covered with glass, they confine the moisture which arises from the earth, and thus the atmosphere is kept humid and the surface moist, and the plants are not subjected to changes of temperature, as a uniform state can be maintained no matter what the weather may be. The bottom heat of the hot-bed warms the soil, and enables the grower to put in his seed early, and obtain plants of good size before the soil outside is warm enough to receive the seed. Care, however, is required to prevent scorching the young plants. In bright days the heat is intense inside the frame, and unless air is freely given, or some course taken to obstruct the rays of the sun, most likely a great portion of the plants will be ruined. Some time since, I was called to examine a hot-bed, as the seeds planted did not grow, when I found they had been all burned up, except a few along the edges that were shaded



by the sides and ends of the frame. When the sun gets pretty warm, give the glass a thin coat of whitewash. This gives a little shade, and, with some air during the middle of bright days, will make all safe. The *hot-bed* is made by forming a pile of horse manure with the straw used for bedding, or leaves, some three feet in height. Shake all together, so that straw and manure will be equally mixed. It may be sunk in the ground a foot or eighteen inches, or made on the surface. On this place about five inches of good mellow soil. Then set the frame and keep it closed until fermentation takes place and the soil is quite warm. It is better to wait a day or two after this, and then sow the seeds. The principal advantages of a hot-bed can be secured by what is called a *cold-frame*.

This is simply a hot-bed frame, with sash, as shown in the engraving, placed upon a bed of fine, mellow earth, in some sheltered place in the garden. By the exclusion of air and the admission of sun, the earth becomes warm, and the moisture is confined, as in the hot-bed. After the frame is secured in its place, a couple of inches of fine earth should be placed inside, and the frame closed up for a day or two before the seeds are planted. As the cold-frame depends upon the sun for its warmth, it must not be started as soon as the hot-bed, and in this latitude the latter part of April is soon enough. Plants will then be large enough for transplanting to the open ground



POTS OF SEED SUNK IN MOSS.

as soon as danger from frost is over, and, as a general thing, they will be hardier and better able to endure the shock of transplanting than if grown in a hot-bed. A frame of this kind any one can manage. Watering occasionally will be necessary; and air must be given on bright, warm days. Shade also is necessary. These frames, when so small as to be conveniently moved by the hand, are called *hand-glasses*. A simple frame or box, with a couple of lights of glass on the top, will answer a very good purpose, though when small it would be better to have the front of glass. A very good hand-glass is made of a square frame, with a light of glass at each side and on the top. These contrivances, though so simple as to be made by any one handy with tools, are exceedingly useful, as they prevent the drying of the surface of the ground, and afford the plants shelter from sudden changes of the temperature, cold storms and frosty nights. The engravings show several forms of which they may be made. Seeds may be sown in the house in pots, &c., but the greatest difficulty is that in pots the soil dries very rapidly, and young plants are apt to suffer. A very good plan is to cover the pots with glass, as we have shown in the engraving, removing it occasionally for air, &c. Where very fine seeds are sown in pots, the watering, unless carefully done, generally results in great injury. A wet paper placed over the top of the pot will afford moisture enough for the germination of fine seeds. If pots are used it is well to sink them to the rim in a box of moss, or something of the kind, that will hold moisture, and prevent the drying of the earth in the pots. A shallow box may be used to advantage, sowing the seed carefully in narrow drills.

When these conveniences are not to be had, make a bed of light, mellow soil, in a sheltered situation in the garden; and as soon as the weather becomes settled, and the ground warm, sow the seeds, covering them with a little fine earth, and if very small sift it upon them. Some one has given as a rule that seeds should be covered twice the depth of their own diameter; that is, that a seed one-sixteenth of an inch through should be covered one-eighth of an inch. Perhaps that is as near correct as any general rule can be. If the weather should prove dry after sowing, it would be well to cover the beds of very small seeds with damp moss, or what is better, with evergreen boughs or something that will afford partial protection from the sun and wind. A very good plan is to nail lath to a frame, as shown in the engraving, leaving the open spaces about as wide as the lath. Seeds do not require light for their germination, and will grow quite as well in the dark as the light until they are above ground. Bell-glasses are convenient both for in-doors or garden use, only care must be given to afford plenty of air, especially on bright days, and shading may be necessary. An inverted flower pot answers almost as good a purpose, but when the young plants are up they will need light, which can be afforded for a few days, and until the plants are large, by elevating the pot, as shown in the engraving. Light and air should be furnished as soon as the plants are above ground, or they will become weak and pale. Of course, it is designed that



SEEDS IN A BOX.