

**AMATEUR CULTIVATOR'S GUIDE TO THE  
FLOWER AND KITCHEN GARDENS:  
CONTAINING A DESCRIPTIVE LIST  
OF TWO THOUSAND VARIETIES OF  
FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS; ALSO  
A LIST OF FRENCH HYBRID GLADIOLUS**

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Amateur cultivator's guide to the flower and kitchen gardens: containing a descriptive list of two thousand varieties of flower and vegetable seeds; also a list of French hybrid gladiolus by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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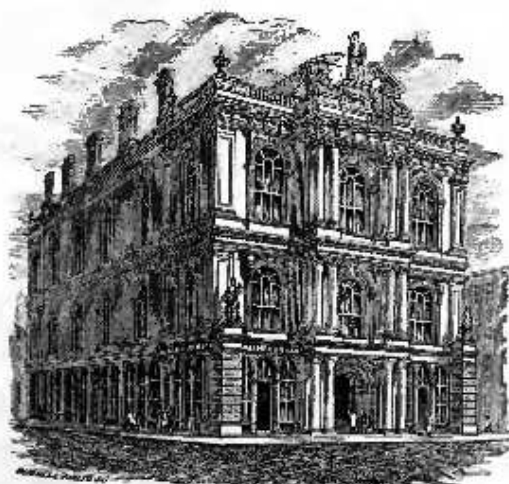


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WASHBURN & CO.'S  
AMATEUR CULTIVATOR'S GUIDE  
TO THE  
*Flower and Kitchen Garden:*  
CONTAINING A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF  
TWO THOUSAND VARIETIES  
OF  
FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS;  
ALSO A LIST OF  
FRENCH HYBRID GLADIOLUS.



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1869

# THE SUMMER FLOWER-GARDEN;

CONTAINING

BRIEF DIRECTIONS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF ANNUAL, BIENNIAL,  
AND PERENNIAL FLOWER-SEEDS.



**ANNUAL** flowers are not only among the most beautiful ornaments of the summer flower-garden, but the ease with which they are cultivated, and the long time they remain in bloom, give them the highest claim to our attention and care. Without them, however much we may admire the various showy bedding plants, a continuous and uninterrupted display of flowers, from spring till frost, cannot well be obtained; and when we add the charm of novelty, and the still greater one of variety, we have only enumerated a few of the claims of these most desirable and effective ornaments of the gardens of "the million."

In consequence of their simple culture, and the small amount of trouble they give to the amateur, as well as their comparative inexpensiveness for their rich array of beauty, they are yearly becoming more generally grown. Bedding-plants are charming objects; but the yearly propagation required for geraniums, verbenas, &c., the labor of potting and watering, and the expense of wintering them, are not within every one's means; but a few dollars expended in seeds, and a little pleasant labor in the sunny days of early spring, will give an amount of real enjoyment beyond belief. The most desolate garden may be made a scene of beauty in scarcely more than a month's time. Annuals are not what they were in former days. The skill of the hybridizer in the production of new varieties, and the diligence of the enthusiastic florist in the selection of the finest plants, have entirely changed the character of many of these flowers; and, if to this we add the new acquisitions from Japan, how could we well make up a summer-garden without them? What should we do without the grand Paeony-flowered Asters, the brilliant double Zinnias, the boldly-marked and rich-colored Petunias, the Double Portulacas, — like miniature roses, — the Heddeiwiggi pink, the Tropaeolum, &c.? These give an entire new feature to our annuals, to be cherished by every lover of beautiful flowers.

We therefore make no apology for giving a few brief hints on the cultivation of these, as well as some of the biennials and perennials, equally important in the decoration of the flower-border.

## ANNUALS.

Among florists and gardeners, the term "annual" is given to those plants which are sown in the spring, bloom and seed in the summer, and soon afterwards perish. A few are included among annuals, like the Marvel of Peru, &c., because they flower the first year; but they are only annual as regards treatment. By cultivators they have been divided into three classes; viz., *Hardy*, *Half-Hardy*, and *Tender Annuals*, — a very convenient classification; and as such we shall treat of them here.

### HARDY ANNUALS.

These are so called because they do not require any artificial heat at any period of their growth, and are capable of enduring any ordinary weather from April to November; a frosty morning, not unusual in the former month, or even in May, doing them no injury, if advanced beyond the seed-leaf. Many of them may be sown in autumn; and the young plants will make their appearance early in spring, and flower stronger than when it is deferred till April.

### THE SOIL AND ITS PREPARATION.

The best soil for annuals, and indeed for most flowering plants, whether biennials or perennials, is a light, rich loam, neither too sandy nor too stiff. In such they grow readily, and attain to great perfection of bloom, with but little care; but it is hardly necessary to say that few persons have just such a soil, nor is it possible often for the cultivator to have much choice. He must take such soil as he has, and make the most of it; and, by the application of proper manures, or sand or clay, he can bring it to such a condition as to answer all the purposes of a flower-garden. Moving large masses of soil is very expensive; and writers who advise the addition of rich loam seem not to be aware of the difficulty of procuring it, or the expense and labor attending the same. For the complete garden of the wealthy, this may and should be done; but the mass of cultivators need not fear of obtaining good results without it. Deep and thorough trenching in the autumn, if possible, and the application of very old decayed manure or leaf-mould, will give the amateur a well-prepared and



suitable soil. If the situation of the garden is low or damp, first of all, it should be well drained; for, in addition to the injury from excessive moisture, such soils are cold, and the young plants are injured by early frosts, when they would escape damage in one of the opposite character: neither should the situation be too dry, as, in this case, the plants would suffer in summer, and present a meagre in place of a vigorous bloom. Where the soil is too light, a thin layer of clay, if to be had, spread over the surface in the autumn, and dug in, after being pulverized by the winter frosts, in the spring, is the best remedy. This, with the use of old manure, — that which has lain a year or more, and been frequently turned over till it becomes thoroughly decayed, — will keep the garden in good condition. No unvarying rules can be given: much must be left to the judgment of the amateur. He must understand that the soil of a good garden should be deep, well pulverized, friable, and rich; and if the opposite, to make it as near that as possible.

When the flower-garden is to be a speciality, — a piece of ground set apart for that object, and laid out in geometrical order, and all the beds edged with box or thrie, — then more pains ought to be taken; and those who are about to do this, if they have not the requisite information, will consult something more than a catalogue. Our hints are intended for the mass of the people who love flowers, — who have but little leisure, — and do not wish to incur great expense in the gratification of their taste.

#### PERIOD FOR SOWING.

This must depend much upon the season, as well as the locality. Our Northern springs are so variable, that no definite period can be named. As a general rule, the proper time to commence sowing is about the middle of April, though a few sorts may be planted as soon as the ground can be got ready; and, for a succession, the sowing should be continued until June. In the Southern States, of course, January, February, or March will be the time to sow, as they correspond with April, May, and June of the North. The Californian annuals, now so numerous and so ornamental, are very hardy, and should be sown early, as they get well established before the heat of summer. To avoid all danger of injury, the sowing may be deferred till the last of April; but, when a little labor is of no consideration, the sowing may be made earlier, and in case of failure to grow, or subsequent injury from frost or wet, another sowing may be made when the weather is more favorable. Because we recommend April, it is not to be understood the sowing must be made at that time. The only object is to obtain a vigorous growth and early bloom. If sown in any part of May, they will flower later but abundantly throughout the latter part of summer.

#### MODE OF SOWING.

This must be varied according to the style of the garden and the variety to be sown. Many of the most showy and beautiful annuals are very impatient of removal; and these must be sown where they are to remain and flower. Such are the Lupines, Sweet Peas, Eschscholzia, Poppies, &c. Indeed, most of the tap-rooted annuals will not bear transplanting. Other annuals which may be transplanted, and some of which flower stronger in removal, may either be sown in the places where they are to bloom, or in prepared beds, from whence they are to be transplanted to the flower-garden. In small gardens, undoubtedly the best way is to sow where they are to remain, thinning out the superfluous plants; this gives the least trouble; but in larger gardens, or where there are beds of early sowing, bulbs to be filled, the safest and best plan is to sow in well-prepared beds, and, when the young plants are of proper size, to transplant to the flower-garden.

Never sow seeds when the ground is very wet, particularly early in the spring. Select a time when the soil is neither wet nor dry. The sowing must be left to the taste of the cultivator, and the extent of surface. If there are vacant beds, the seeds may be sown in rows across the bed; but if in the border, where there are only limited spaces among the perennials or bulbs, they may be planted in masses or groups, in which mode we think annuals produce the greatest effect. Our plan has always been to mark out a circle a foot or more in diameter, and level the ground evenly and nicely with the rake; then, with the back of a trowel, press the surface firmly down; around the circle make a slight drill of the proper depth, in which the seeds are thinly sown, covering them lightly, and again pressing the earth upon the seeds with the back of the trowel. If the soil should happen to be too wet, or stiff and adhesive, fill the drill with some light, sandy loam, and make firm, as before ordered.

And here we should remark that great care should be exercised in covering the seeds. It is the great error to cover too deep; and the cause of more than half of the complaints against seedmen of selling old and worthless seeds comes from inexperience or want of judgment in sowing. No rule can be given in this respect; but, as a general guide, all large seeds, such as Sweet Peas, Lupines, &c., may be sown half an inch deep, — smaller, less; and for the smallest, such as Clarkia, Pinks, &c., a covering of one-sixteenth of an inch suffices. If sown too deep, they are longer in germinating, and are liable to decay. Avoid the general error of sowing the seeds too thick, as it causes an elongated and feeble growth, which no subsequent thinning will entirely remedy.

If the weather should be warm, or the soil very dry, it will be advisable to give a slight watering with a watering-pot with a fine rose. It is not often that seeds planted in April need watering; but later in the season they frequently require it. Use water of the same temperature of the soil; or, if warmer, it will do no harm. The waterings should be given early in the afternoon, and repeated every few days, as, when the seeds begin to swell, they are more susceptible of injury from drought, and the young plants often perish when it is neglected. A good plan with very small seeds is to cover them with an inverted flower-pot, being careful to remove it before the young seedlings appear above the surface, otherwise they will be drawn up weakly, and are likely to be injured by the hot sun or a cool night. Seeds vary in their period of germination. Some will be above ground in a week, while others require two or three weeks.

As soon as the seedlings have made three or four leaves, and are an inch high, they should be thinned out. If they are kinds which will bear removal, they may be replanted in vacant spaces in the border. No rule can be given for thinning. Tall-growing plants with spreading branches will require more room than slender-growing dwarf kinds; and in this the cultivator must be guided by the Catalogue. Stir the soil around the plants from time to time; and, if they appear crowded, a

second thinning will be of great benefit to those that remain. If the growth is not strong, from the nature of the soil, apply occasionally a very small amount of guano or bone-dust.

#### TRANSPLANTING.

Presuming that many cultivators will sow their seeds in prepared beds, whence the plants are to be removed to the borders to bloom, it is necessary that the work should be carefully performed to insure success. Transplanting should, if possible, always be done in cloudy weather, and towards evening. If the soil is dry, the plants will require a light watering to settle the earth around the roots; and, if warm sunny days succeed the operation, they will root all the better to have a little shade for a day or two, which may be done by spreading an old newspaper over them, or covering with a mat, removing either at night. All large-growing plants should be transplanted singly; but many of the smaller may be removed in patches, without any trouble, if the soil is previously well watered. We have found very little difficulty in moving Zinnias, Asters, and smaller plants, after they have begun to bloom. After the plants are established, they will need no other care than to tie up the taller-growing sorts to stakes to prevent the wind and rains from beating them down to the ground, and injuring their blossoms.

#### HALF-HARDY ANNUALS.

We have already remarked that half-hardy annuals are those that require the aid of artificial heat to assist germination; but it should be remarked that this is not absolutely necessary if the sowing is deferred until the ground is warm, -- say the last of May. This is exemplified in the Portulaca, which sows itself; but the plants never appear above ground till June; and those who do not wish the trouble of sowing seed early should plant in open ground in May. But to gain time, and insure an early and abundant bloom, it is best to plant early, and assist the growth by a gentle artificial heat. Some of the most magnificent annuals are embraced in this class, of which the Aster, Zinnia, and Balsam are examples. The cheapest, most convenient, and simplest mode of doing this is the ordinary hotbed of stable manure, which gives a gentle bottom-heat quite sufficient for any of this class. Its construction is simple, and generally understood by most owners of a garden; but, as there may be some of our readers who do not know how to make a good hotbed, we add the details at the close of our remarks, observing, however, that it is so valuable an aid in the forwarding of flowers as well as vegetables, that no one having a garden can well dispense with it.

Presuming that the bed is made and all ready for use, the seeds may be sown on the prepared soil, just the same as in the open ground, and afterwards transplanted to the borders; but, as this is often attended with many failures in inexperienced hands, it is the safest to sow the seeds in pots or pans; if in neither of these, in shallow boxes. The pots should be about four or five inches in diameter, and should be perfectly clean. The soil should consist of a uniform compost of light, sandy loam, enriched with some fine leaf-mould, avoiding any raw or crude manures, which are certain to injure the young plants. Put in a few crocks at the bottom of each pot for drainage, and fill to the brim with the compost, giving the pot one or two gentle knocks on the bottom to settle the earth, which should be within half an inch of the rim. Level the surface by gently pressing it with the bottom of a pot, or a circular piece of wood made for the purpose, as this will not only be beneficial to the seeds, but assist in distributing them more evenly and regularly over the soil. Observe the same rules in regard to covering that we have already named. Some kinds will need nothing more than a thin sprinkling of earth just to fairly cover the seeds; and each pot should have the surface again gently pressed down: a slight watering with a very fine rose will complete the operation of sowing.

When all the pots are filled and planted, and marked as they should be with the name of each, and date of sowing, upon a neat label, remove them at once to the hotbed or frame, and place them perfectly level, so that each pot may receive its proper proportion of water evenly over the surface. If there are but a few pots, and a greenhouse is at hand, they may have a place on a sunny shelf near the glass, shading them during the middle of the day. Shading will also be necessary in the hotbed. The temperature should not exceed 75° or 80°, or the seeds will germinate too quick, and be drawn up weakly. As the seedlings appear above ground, give air by tilting the sashes at the back. Give water as the pots require it (which is usually once a day), and always of the same temperature of the bed, and be careful in the operation not to wash away or destroy the young and slender seedlings. During cold nights, a mat may be thrown over the frame, which will prevent the loss of heat, and maintain a more even temperature. As some of the seeds will make their appearance before others, those that appear above ground should be placed together towards the back of the frame, where they can have a greater abundance of air and be more freely watered than the others. As the plants acquire a proper size, they should be thinned out so as not to injure those that remain; and then, when farther advanced, should be transplanted into four-inch pots, -- one, three, or five plants in each, according to the variety, -- using a compost similar to that in which they were sown, replacing the pots in the bed, and shading slightly till they are well established, and able to bear the full sun. Those that are later in vegetating should be treated in the same manner, until all are transplanted, unless it is such kinds as will not bear removal safely; and must be allowed to remain in the pot in which they were sown, thinning them out, so that not more than three or five plants are left. The Cypress-vine, Thunbergia, &c. are of this character.

By the middle of May, the seedlings will be ready for transferring to the beds or borders where they are to bloom; but, before this is done, the plants should be "hardened off," as it is termed, in order to prepare them for the change. This is effected by gradually giving the plants more air, and when the weather is favorable, both day and night, removing the sashes wholly during the day; or, if more convenient, removing them to a cold frame, where they can be fully exposed in the daytime, and protected at night, with a covering of mats. Much must be left to the judgment of the cultivator and the amount of available space, the object being to prevent the plants from being injured by a too sudden exposure to the open air. Proceed in transplanting as we have already recommended under that head for hardy annuals.

## TENDER ANNUALS.

We have stated that the classification of hardy, half-hardy, and tender annuals, was a convenient one; but really there is scarcely an annual but will grow freely in our climate in the open ground in summer. The term *tender* has been applied by English gardeners because the plants do not attain full perfection unless grown in pots in the greenhouse. Such are the Globe Amaranth, Balsam, Egg-plant, &c. All the tender annuals, therefore, may be treated in the same manner as the half-hardy, and with equal success.

## BIENNIALS AND PERENNIALS.

Biennial and perennial plants are almost indispensable additions to the flower-garden, displaying their blossoms both early and late, succeeding and even flowering with the spring bulbs, and continuing long after the frost has destroyed the hardiest annuals. They are also so easily cultivated, and require so little care for their great amount of beauty, that they must be ranked as the most permanent and showy objects of the flower-border. We only need name the Larkspur, Phlox, Lychnis, Coreopsis, Saxifrage, &c., as a few among the many imposing and elegant groups.

Biennials are those plants that generally do not flower until the second year, and, after blooming, die. These include, however, many splendid species, such as the Foxglove, Canterbury Bells, Sweet Williams, Hollyhocks, &c. Perennials are plants which generally do not bloom until the second year, but continue to bloom for years in succession, and may be propagated, after once obtained, by division of the roots, growing more vigorously and flowering better if divided and replanted every three or four years.

The proper time for sowing the seeds of hardy kinds is in April or May, at the period of sowing the hardy annuals, in order to obtain a good strong growth the first year, and a greater abundance of flowers the second; but the sowings may be continued with success as late as August, after which the plants will not become strong enough to flower the following year. Whether the seeds are sown in beds or in the border, the young plants should be thinned out, and afterwards transplanted, just as we have directed for hardy annuals, only giving them more room, and encouraging a vigorous growth by hoeing, watering, &c. On the approach of severe frosty weather, protect the plants with a light covering of leaves or coarse manure, and the succeeding year they will blossom in great profusion.

## SPECIAL DIRECTIONS TO AMATEUR CULTIVATORS.

In addition to the preceding remarks, which are given as the results of our own practice for many years, and which, we think, are adequate for all general purposes, the following special directions are added for the guidance of amateurs in the treatment of many of the more choice and new flowers enumerated in our Catalogue. If carefully followed, it is hoped they will remove all causes of failure in the attempt to cultivate many of the most beautiful plants.

**FRENCH AND GERMAN ASTERS.**—These now justly admired and most beautiful annuals should be sown in pots, pans, or boxes, in a well-prepared soil, and placed in an exhausted hotbed or cold frame, watering them gently till the plants are an inch high; when, after hardening off by gradual exposure to the air, they should be transplanted into the open ground in a light, rich soil, placing them in rows six inches apart, shading for a few hours in the middle of the day, until well rooted. In the course of two or three weeks, they will have become stout and stocky, and ready for replanting out where they are to flower. Before transplanting, give the bed a good watering; then with a trowel take each plant up separately and carefully, and remove it to the bed or border; finish with another liberal watering, which must be repeated if the weather is dry; they will soon take root, however, and will make a rapid growth. Before the flowers expand, the each plant up to a neat stick, and, if the soil is not rich, apply a light sprinkling of guano. The first week of June is the best period for final planting.

**ZINNIAS** may be treated precisely like the Aster. The double varieties, in eight distinct colors, are superb ornaments of the garden.

**EPACRIS, HEATHS, AZALEAS, and RHODODENDRONS** should be planted in boxes or pans, well drained, and filled with light, very sandy loam, with a small quantity of peat. Make the earth firm, and give a thorough watering before sowing. Cover the surface with a little sand, upon which the seed should be thinly scattered, covering with the least possible quantity of fine sand. Place the pans or boxes in the greenhouse, where they can be wholly shaded from the mid-day sun, and lightly damp the surface when dry. The young plants will make their appearance in three or four weeks; and, when strong enough to handle easily, transplant into boxes an inch or two apart, and gradually harden them off, so as to remove to frames or the open air.

**CALCEOLARIAS, CINERARIAS, and CHINESE PRIMROSES**, require similar treatment. The seeds of the former are so minute, that they are liable to be destroyed by covering; and complaints are frequent of the failure to make the seed grow. If the following directions are carefully observed, an abundance of plants may be easily raised:—

The seed should be sown in pots prepared in the following manner: The pot to be half filled with drainage, over that rough siftings of the mould, and the surface covered with soil as fine as possible, half of which should be composed of silver sand. When prepared thus, it should be watered with a fine rose, immediately after which sow the seed carefully without any covering of soil. The pots should then be placed under a close frame or hand-glass, in a shady part of the garden (no artificial heat being required). In large establishments, of course, they may have propagating or other