

Grass lawns and shrubby beds and borders usually receive attention at this season in the way of repairing, by taking up and relaying portions of the lawn which are unlevel, by neatly edging the margins of all beds and borders, and with equal care all gravel walks surrounding or crossing any portion of the lawn; for ornamental gardening can only be deemed worthy of the name where neatness and order are regarded as first considerations.

AUGUST.

Come, gentle Spring, ethereal mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veiled in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.—THOMSON.

Commencement of Spring—Changeable Weather—Sowing, Digging, Pruning and Planting—Onions—Spring Salading—Spinach—Curled Parsley for Edgings—Sow Cabbages, Cauliflowers, &c.—Transplant Rhubarb, Asparagus, Sea-kale, and make fresh Sowings—Early Cucumbers, Melons, Celery, Capsicums, and Tomatoes—Hasten deferred Planting of Fruit Trees—The Flower Garden—Sow Sweet Peas, Mignonette, &c.—Transplant Sweet Williams, Stocks, Daisies, Wallflower, Primroses, Violets, &c.—Re-potting Greenhouse Plants—Fork Vine Borders—Prune in Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.

FROM the beginning of August we date the commencement of spring, which exhibits closely the changeable characteristics of an English February, especially from the beginning to the middle of the month. One day is warm and pleasant, with a soft, mild, and spring-like atmosphere; a second is cold and bracing, with sharp morning frosts; whilst a third is cold, wet and stormy. After which, several delightful days may succeed, rapidly exciting vegetation, and fully indicating the presence of spring, as further exemplified by the swelling buds of gooseberries and thorns, and by the re-appearance of crocuses, snowdrops, and other early spring flowering bulbs, whose return reminds us that the season is at hand for renewed exertions in sowing, digging, pruning, and planting, as often as favourable weather and a suitable condition of the soil may afford proper opportunities.

Although early autumn sown onions produce by far the largest and finest bulbs, yet a fine crop may still be obtained by sowing at once in beds four and a half feet in width, with from five to seven rows in each bed, covered with finely raked or sifted soil; although wood ashes, if conveniently obtainable, are better than either.

Onions ought to be sown considerably thicker than most other vegetable seeds, from their peculiar liability to failure.

Early peas may now be generally sown in rows from one to four feet apart, the distance being regulated by the habit of the variety; that is, whether dwarf or tall; though the strong winds of midsummer, taken in connection with the scarcity of pea-stakes, must ever ensure for the dwarfest sorts a decided preference.

Four of the best of these are early dwarf, emperor, early queen of dwarf, Lord Raglan, and late dwarf blue imperial; and three of the best of intermediate height are Fairbeard's early surprise, Woodford's green marrow, and blue Prussian; and three of the best of the very tall varieties are, the alliance, the champion of England, and the ne-plus-ultra.

Broad beans may now be generally planted in lines across the garden squares, twenty-four inches asunder; the lesser sorts, like the early mazagan, two inches; and the larger varieties, like the Windsor, four inches apart. Three of the best varieties are long-pod, green Windsor, and broad Windsor, the latter being generally esteemed the best.

A first sowing of early short-horn carrots may now be made, though some risk of the crop starting prematurely to seed always attends the early sowing of this vegetable.

Parsnips sown this month grow larger and finer than later crops. They are usually sown in beds four and a half feet wide, with four rows in each, and afterwards singled out so as to stand about seven inches apart.

Cress, mustard, radish, and lettuce, for spring salading, may continue to be sown at fortnightly intervals.

Spinach may now be sown in rows ten inches apart, and a similar distance may be allowed to such of the thinnings of last month's sowing as may now be becoming fit for transplanting.

Curled parsley—either as an edging for garden walks, or for the purpose of defining the backs of borders—may now be sown in continuous lines.

Seeds of cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli, savoys, Brussels sprouts, and curled greens, to produce early spring plants, may now be sown; and autumn-sown plants of each of these varieties, now fit for removal, may be at once transplanted.

Rhubarb, asparagus, and sea-kale may be sown, and last year's roots of each, where not already done, may yet be safely transplanted. First sowings, on a slight hot-bed, of early cucumbers and melons, celery, capsicums, and tomatoes, may now be made, at this early period of the season, to be forced into growth by the aid of artificial heat.

Apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, figs, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, and strawberries should now be planted as soon as possible; for the increasing strength of the sun's rays is daily becoming less favourable to a high degree of success.

Sweet peas, mignonette, and the numerous varieties of hardy or half-hardy annual, biennial, and perennial flower seeds should at once be sown; and plants of sweet-williams, stocks, wallflowers, daisies, primroses, violets, and many other plants of a similar class can now be successfully transplanted.

Returning spring suggests the necessity for renewed activity in all matters relating to green-house cultivation; first, however, amongst the more pressing duties of the season, will be that of shifting to large flower-pots all plants requiring additional pot room to enable them to increase their growth, and to perfect their bloom. For this purpose, flower-pots at least twice or three times the size of those the plants now occupy should be well drained with broken flower-pots or small pieces of brick, and the plants potted in these in a mixture of something like good garden soil of a rich black loam, to which one-third of well decomposed manure has been added.

After potting, re-arrange the plants in the green-house, shading slightly from the brightness of the mid-day sun, and sprinkling freely with slightly diluted water every morning and evening for one week, throughout the whole of which abstain from giving any water at the roots.

Vines may now be carefully trained and tied in to their proper positions; the outer borders may be freshly forked up, and the inner borders loosened and well drenched with water. The temperature of the house may be increased by reduced ventilation, and by closing in theinery early every afternoon with a warm moist atmosphere.

Shrubs and trees standing upon grass lawns or growing on shrubby beds and borders will, in numerous instances, require pruning in; for on good land, where the growth is rapid, plants not unfrequently become too large for any but shrubberies and lawns of spacious extent. Plants ought, therefore, to be kept in due proportion to the extent of lawn by heading back every spring, by which, if properly done, their symmetrical form will be maintained, their relative proportions fairly balanced, their bloom strengthened and greatly increased in profusion.

SEPTEMBER.

Man marks not Thee, marks not the mighty hand
That, ever busy, wheels the silent spheres;
Works in the secret deep; shoots teeming thence
The fair profusion that o'erspreads the spring;
Flings from the sun direct the flaming day;
Feeds every creature; hurls the tempest forth;
And, as on earth this grateful change revolves,
With transport touches all the springs of life.—THOMSON.

Spring—Exuberant Vegetation—Sow Onions, Leeks, Carrots, Parsnips, Beet, Cabbage, Lettuce, Peas, Broad Beans, &c.—Broccoli, best sorts—Sow Turnips—Plant in a Hot-bed Cucumbers and Melons—Also, Tomatoes, Capsicums, &c.—Plant out Celery—Sow Annual, Biennial, and Perennial Sweet and Pot Herbs—Continue to transplant Rhubarb, Asparagus, Sea-kale, Horse Radish, and Artichokes—Grafting Fruit Trees—Transplanting—The Flower Garden—Fumigation of Greenhouse—Vinery—Attention necessary to Lawns, Walks, and Borders.

ADVANCING spring comes, heralded by brighter days, increasing warmth, expanding buds, opening blossoms, and renovated life, invigorated by gentle showers or refreshing dews, which deck the plain with herbage and its gardens with exuberant growth, lending to spring a charm which gladdens every heart, and fills every mind with a grateful sense of new-born joy.

The progress of the season urgently requires that any of last month's gardening duties, which may have been unavoidably omitted, ought now to claim immediate attention before the return of the drier weather of the succeeding month. If, therefore, circumstances are favourable, the early portion of September will be chosen either to commence first or continue former sowings of onions, leeks, carrots, parsnips, red beet, cabbage, cauliflower, savoys, Brussels sprouts, curled greens, spinach, parsley, mustard, cress, radish, lettuce, and endive, together with two or more successional sowings of peas and broad beans. The present is also a suitable time for sowing celery on the open border for late crops, succeeding that which was recommended to be sown last month on a slight hot bed.