

Any time this month may be chosen for sowing all the varieties of flowering broccoli. The best sorts are the early white cape, the walcheren, the imperial white winter, Snow's superb white, and the white mammoth. These varieties will afford a succession of fine broccoli for daily use from the time cauliflowers cease to produce in autumn until their return, about the end of November.

Three small successional sowings of early white stone turnips may be made between the beginning and the end of the month—a repetition of the sowings being needful, lest the first should happen to start off prematurely to seed, which is quite a usual occurrence with the first early-sown crops of carrots and turnips.

Another slight hot-bed may now be made, upon which to plant the cucumbers and melons sown last month, and to carry on growing tomatoes, capsicums, balsams, cockscombs, and globe amaranths, or any other seeds which are benefited by a gentle bottom heat.

The celery sown on a hot-bed last month may now be gradually inured to exposure, and when sufficiently hardened off, may be thickly planted out in a moist, shady situation, and very frequently watered until finally transplanted, as directed in the January calendar.

The various annual pot-herbs may now be sown—such as summer savory, sweet marjoram, sweet basil, bush basil, and marigolds; and either the seed may be sown, or last year's plants transplanted of such biennial and perennial sweet and pot herbs as thyme, sage, winter savory, pot-marjoram, balm, borage, spear-mint, peppermint, hyssop, and lavender; and of such as bear the reputation of possessing medicinal virtues—such as rosemary, feverfew, penny-royal, camomile, and horehound.

The roots of rhubarb, though now beginning to unfold their leaves, may still be safely transplanted, especially when lifted with a ball of soil adhering; and the roots of asparagus, sea-kale, horse-radish, globe and Jerusalem artichokes will also still bear removal with equal certainty of success.

It is now the season to commence grafting, as the sap is beginning to move. Commence first with those fruit trees which come earliest into leaf, as cherries and plums. The latest kinds in leafing are pears and apples, which are generally not grafted until nearly a fortnight after the cherry. This is also the proper time to graft oranges; choose for a stock the Seville orange, as being the most hardy, durable, and robust grower. As directed in the previous month, the scions should be taken off and laid in; for grafting always succeeds best when the sap of the stock is in a more forward state of activity than that of the scion. Observing the performance of the operation of grafting is better than any other method of teaching it. The young trees to be worked, technically called "the stocks," are "cut over" near the ground. Firstly, clear away a little of the soil from the base of the stock, as it is desirable to place the graft as low down on the stock as possible. Secondly, having a sharp knife, make a smooth cut on one side of the stock, just sufficient to fit the diameter of the scion, and about 1½ inches long, and slightly penetrating the wood. Next, make a slit downwards from the top on the smooth cut side of the stock about a quarter of an inch deep. Cut the scion of a length corresponding to the length of the cut on the stock, and cut the lower end of the scion obliquely at one cut, to fit the stock, and make in it a cut similar to that in the stock. Lastly, fix the stock and scion together, and fit the inner edges neatly, so that the bark of each shall be in contact. Tie them firmly together with worsted or bass in the desired position, and cover the graft with prepared clay, made by beating it up with short hay; earth up with soil nearly to the top bud of the scion, thus greatly promoting the union by keeping the clay in a moist state. There are many kinds of grafting, but this method is the one most practised.

The transplanting of gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries, apples, and other fruit trees, as well as forest trees, should by the end of the month be completed for the season; for the parching north-west winds which sometimes blow at intervals from the beginning or middle of October are unfavourable to the re-establishment of lately-removed fruit and forest trees.

The seeds of sweet peas and mignonette may continue to be sown for successional bloom, with all the numerous sorts of hardy or half-hardy annual, biennial, or perennial flower seeds. Early in the present month is also a suitable season for the planting of roses, fuchsias, hollyhocks, dahlias, chrysanthemums, pinks, carnations, and many other varieties of similar ornamental herbaceous flowering plants, which, in their season, impart to the flower borders a pleasing gaiety and fragrant perfume.

Greenhouse plants re-potted last month will, every fine day, require to have an abundance of air, so as to secure a healthy, vigorous growth—an important point in the successful culture of greenhouse plants to be aimed at, and deemed of quite as much importance as a profusion of bloom itself, and under proper treatment, of very easy attainment, by a rigid adherence to the usual rules which govern successful cultivation; these mainly consist in profuse ventilation, frequent watering in bright weather, a moist atmosphere, secured by frequent sprinkling, together with an absence of the greenhouse insect pest, known by the common name of green fly, the removal of which is easily effected on its first appearance by syringing overhead with tobacco water, or by fumigating with tobacco smoke, either of which will be found perfectly efficacious.

Vineries which were closed in last month, and assisted with a little fire heat, will now be starting fast into renewed growth; the buds of the vines will break more evenly, as the first bursting of the buds is usually termed, by frequent daily syringing with tepid water, which will, at the same time, create within the vinery a warm moist atmosphere—conditions of early culture in which the vine delights to luxuriate.

Grass lawns, walks, and verges will now have grown sufficiently to require their first mowing, rolling, and sweeping. If each of these operations is carefully and well performed upon this occasion the lawn will be much more easily mown and kept neat throughout the summer. All beds or borders, standing on grass lawns, which were dug during Autumn or Winter will now require to be neatly raked so as to fit them for the reception of annual and biennial flower seeds.

## OCTOBER.

The garden glows, and fills the liberal air  
With lavish fragrance; while the promised fruit  
Lies yet a little embryo, unperceived  
Within its crimson fold—THOMSON.

*Close of Spring—Nor' Westers—Sow Broccoli, Celery, Parsley, Greens, Cauliflowers, &c.—Turnips, Spinach, Cress, Mustard, Radish, Lettuce, Endive, Beet—Sow Onions for Drawing Green—Sow and Transplant Cabbages—Sow Carrots, Parsnips, &c.—Commence Sowing French Beans—Mould up Cucumbers and Melons on Hot-beds—Pot off Tomatoes, Capsicums, Balsams, &c.—Sow hardy out-of-doors Cucumbers, Melons, Pumpkins, Vegetable Marrows, &c., in sheltered spots—Water Strawberries and Rhubarb—Continue to Sow hardy Flower Seeds—Water Hyacinths—Anemones, &c., &c.—Greenhouse and Vinery—Flower Beds and Borders on Lawns.*

SPRING closes with the end of the present month, whilst showers and refreshing dews recur at longer intervals—not merely giving place to the warm dry weather, which now commences, but even to occasional dry north-west winds, which sometimes begin to blow with considerable violence even so early as October. These, however, are of unfrequent occurrence, and rarely of more than a few hours duration.

A knowledge of this circumstance ought, however, to stimulate every prudent cultivator to use his utmost exertions to complete the necessary sowing and planting of all crops either omitted last month or necessary to be sown during the present.

Continue, therefore, the sowing of flowering broccoli, adhering to the varieties previously recommended. Early in the month make a final sowing of Seymour's superb white or Manchester red celery, and also sowings of curled parsley, globe savoy, Brussels sprouts, curled greens, and cauliflower. Make successional sowings of early white stone turnips, spinach, cress, mustard, radish, lettuce, endive, and red beet. Even onions may still be sown; more, however, for the purpose of drawing green throughout the summer and autumn, and thus saving the bulbs of the earlier and better crops. The varieties of early and late cabbages may also be sown, and during showery weather the early spring-sown plants of each may be advantageously transplanted. Carrots, parsnips, salsafy, and scorzonera may still be sown; and now is a suitable time to commence first small sowings of scarlet runners and dwarf French beans. These first sowings are not, however, to be relied upon; for some seasons it happens that a long period of fine weather may be succeeded by a single chilly night, accompanied with a slight hoar frost, by which the first crops of scarlet runners, French beans, and some other tender plants are partially swept off; hence the necessity for successional sowings.

Cucumbers and melons planted on a hot-bed last month will now require to be finally moulded; and to render them abundantly fruitful they ought to be stopped at every second joint, and sprinkled with water on the afternoon of every warm day, closing them in early with a moist warm atmosphere. Tomatoes and capsicums, balsams, cockscombs, and amaranths sown in August and September will now need to be potted off singly.

Towards the end of this month the out-of-doors hardy ridge cucumbers, water-melons, pie-pumpkins, gourds, vegetable marrows, and late tomatoes may be sown within any sheltered enclosure. All of these are very tender, and, where proper conveniences exist, it is the safest plan to sow them in flower pots, placed either in a glass frame or within the window of a dwelling-house until the seeds have germinated, and the plants are about an inch in height; after which they may for a few days be gradually inured to exposure, by placing them out during the day, and keeping them in at night; and when thus sufficiently hardened off, they may be planted out in any warm sheltered situation, and for a time slightly protected by a temporary covering at night.

Strawberry plants bloom much more vigorously when frequently watered during dry weather. The seed-stems of rhubarb and sea-kale exercise a very exhausting power over the roots, and should all be cut away as soon as perceptible; rhubarb will be greatly benefited by frequent heavy waterings. Some of the finest rhubarb yet grown in Canterbury was produced after repeated drenchings with soap-suds.

Flower-seeds of all the hardy and half-hardy annuals may still be sown; and now is a suitable time to commence sowing the more tender varieties, such as convolvulus major, tropeolum canariense, petunias, nasturtiums, and out-of-door balsams. These and other similarly delicate kinds liable to suffer from hoar frosts may, with tolerable safety, be sown towards the end of the month on the open borders.