

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 the vinery 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.—TROMSON.

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, savoy, 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.

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 mode 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.