

## 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 cauliflowers. 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, salsify, 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, *tropæolum 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.

Hyacinths, anemones, ranunculuses, and other bulbs now in flower will have their blooming period greatly prolonged by frequent watering and shading from the overpowering brightness of the mid-day sun.

Successful culture of potted plants during the previous months of spring will now begin to clothe the greenhouse with healthy foliage and a profusion of beautiful bloom, the gaiety of which will richly reward the cultivator's earnest anxious exertions, who will now begin to water more freely at the root, and more sparingly over head; for water sprinkled over blooming plants extracts the delicate colours of the petals, washes off the handsome pollen which not unfrequently adorns the anthers and stigma of the flowers, and hastens more rapidly to decay the too evanescent beauty of handsome flowers, which a drier atmosphere would possess the power of greatly prolonging.

Vines under glass, aided with a moderate amount of fire-heat, will now be bursting into foliage, and will, at this stage of their growth, require constant attention in the displacement of irregular growths, the reduction of all side shoots to one only on each spur, and the stopping of these, one joint before the bunch, by pinching out the top with the finger and thumb. The leading shoot should also be carefully tied in, and then stopped between the sixth and tenth joints of its growth; successful grape culture depends, in a very large degree, upon preventing the growth of useless wood, for the energies of the vine ought to be entirely concentrated upon the production of large high-flavoured fruit.

Continue to maintain a warm, moist atmosphere, syringing with water of the same temperature as the house, and closing early every afternoon.

All flower beds or borders occupying a position upon or standing by the margin of grass lawns should now be fully planted with greenhouse and other plants well suited for summer decoration, such as geraniums, verbenas, calceolarias, cinerarias, fuchsias, heliotropes, carnations, and hybrid perpetual roses in pots; all of these, with a fair proportion of bluish and dark China roses judiciously blended, will maintain throughout the whole of the summer and autumn a great profusion of bloom, combined with a pleasing diversity of colour and every enjoyable perfume.

## NOVEMBER.

From brightening fields of ether fair disclosed,  
Child of the sun, refulgent summer, comes  
In pride of youth; and felt through Nature's depth,  
He comes attended by the sultry hours  
And ever-fanning breezes.—THOMSON.

*Summer—Plant Scarlet Runners and French Beans, Turnips, Swedes for Winter use, Spinach, Peas, and Broad Beans—Watering—Sow Cress, Mustard, Radish, Endive, and Lettuce—Transplant Spring-sown Cabbages—Plant out Vegetable Marrows, Melons, &c., sown in Pots—Regulation of Fruit Trees, Raspberries, Strawberries—The Flower Garden—Training Greenhouse Climbers—Temperature of Vinery—Plants in Ornamental Borders.*

SUMMER commences with November, and, although its general character may incline to warm, dry weather; yet the ground is not unfrequently cooled, and trees, plants, and seeds greatly refreshed, and rapid growth in each encouraged by occasional copious rains, which stimulate vegetation in a very remarkable degree, and afford suitable opportunities for continuing the sowing and planting of some sorts of vegetable crop, first amongst which scarlet runners will claim attention, two or more successive sowings of each of which ought to be made during the commencement of the month.

Successional sowings of white stone turnips may continue to be made; for, to have these in perfection, it is best to make frequent small sowings, using the roots only when they are young and tender; swede turnips sown now will be fit for use in winter; for although they are usually considered a field crop, they are also a very excellent winter vegetable.

Further supplies of spinach and repeated sowings of peas and broad beans may continue to be made; should the soil happen to be dry at the time of sowing any of these crops, it is an excellent plan, after the drills have been formed, to run a potful of water along the bottom of each, immediately after which the seeds may be sown and covered in. This is a much better and more natural plan than steeping seeds, and the ground will retain the moisture thus imparted better than by surface watering, whilst the germination of the seeds will be considerably accelerated thereby. Crops, however, which have recently been sown will be greatly benefited by repeated surface-waterings during dry weather. This assertion, I am aware, is sometimes challenged by the inexperienced and unobservant.

Successional sowings of cress, mustard, radish, endive, and lettuce can be continued. Spring-sown early and late cabbages can be transplanted, and additional sowings made; any of the other sorts of winter greens fit for removal may now begin to be transplanted, care being taken to select suitable weather and a fit condition of the soil.

Vegetable marrows, cucumbers, gourds, pumpkins, water-melons, and tomatoes, raised in pots, as previously directed, may now, if omitted last month, be planted out in a sheltered situation; each of which, except the tomatoes, may be planted in threes, each three standing about a yard apart. The first few days after removal they should be constantly shaded, and frequently watered. Tomatoes may be planted at the bottom of a paling, to be trained against it, or in continuous lines across the garden, twelve inches distant in the line, and to be ultimately supported by branches similar to pea-stakes; or bricks may be placed upon the surface, and the plants pegged down upon them, the radiating heat from which rapidly ripens the fruit.