

## THE CULTIVATION OF THE CLEMATIS FOR WALLS AND TRELLISES.

(From "THE CLEMATIS AS A GARDEN FLOWER.")



A wall plant, the Clematis ranks high amongst those which may be selected on account of their decorative capabilities. In this capacity moreover, it affords a choice of subjects adapted respectively for spring, for summer, and for autumn-flowering, the spring-flowering sorts belonging to the montana, the florida, and the patens types, while the most important of the summer and autumn-flowering ones are those of the lanuginosa, Viticella, and Jackmanni groups.

When grown on walls, whether covered or exposed, the plants of the early-flowering section are not liable to suffer injury from frost, being perfectly hardy, and flourishing even in exposed situations. The chief risk they incur, and which is but little, is that arising from the incidence of the morning sun upon them when a sharp late spring frost may have caught the expanded flowers. In any moderately-sheltered position, however, this risk is but slight indeed, and the plants will grow freely, and flower satisfactorily, coming into blossom about the middle or end of May, and continuing to flower more or less abundantly, according to the situation they occupy, up to the end of June or beginning of July. The general features of their treatment have been already described when treating of sections 2 and 3, which include the most showy of the early-blooming sorts, and may be summed up thus:—Deep rich light loamy soil; a liberal supply of manure at least annually; the free development and perfect maturation of the summer shoots; and the retaining these at as great length as possible when pruning in winter.

In very sheltered situations, some of the varieties of the montana group, notably *C. calycina*, may be had still earlier than the foregoing; while as a May bloomer, vigorous in growth, hardy in constitution, and most prolific of flowers, *C. montana*—with its variety—is strongly to be recommended as a distinct type of the genus.

The summer and autumnal-flowering groups are gorgeous wall plants, and include not only the nobler forms bred from *C. lanuginosa*, but the floriferous, hybridized, and selected descendants of *C. viticella*. They commence to put forth their inflorescence about July, and continue on till October or November, those of the former alliance in moderate abundance and at intervals, those of the latter in continuous profusion. The lanuginosa breed is, however, specially effective when thus grown, on account of the immense size to which the blossoms of many of the varieties attain, and which, facing outwards from a background of growth, are then displayed to the greatest possible advantage. They require in this position the most liberal feeding, and moderate pruning, the summer growths being carefully trained in to secure the successional flowers they produce.

The Viticella and Jackmanni varieties attract rather by the profusion than by the individual size of their flowers. These plants, while fed to the utmost in order to meet the excessive demand upon their powers, should be pruned hard back every autumn, unless a considerable space is intended to be covered, and the young shoots should be trained up to their full extent in the early part of the summer, until flowers begin to appear, when, as all the lateral growths develop flowers, it may be better to let them fall in graceful wreaths of pendant spray.

In illustration of the capabilities of the varieties of this latter type as decorative objects, we may quote the following interesting description of a specimen of *C. Jackmanni*, growing in the garden of Lord Polwarth, Mertoun House, St. Boswell's, in Berwickshire. Mertoun House is in close proximity to the Tweed, within three miles of the St. Boswell's station, on the Waverley route to, and about forty miles from, Edinburgh. Mr. Fowler, Lord Polwarth's gardener, in a letter dated March, 1872, writes as follows:—

"The plant in question was planted five years ago, from a 4-inch pot, against a wall with an eastern exposure. As the garden walk passes close by the wall, and consequently, over the roots, I had the ground well prepared at the outset. The natural soil being light, upon a gravelly bottom, I added a mixture of one-half heavy loam, and one-half natural soil, with a considerable quantity of well-rotted manure, incorporating them well together, and beating down the whole

before planting, to make the walk solid. In order to protect the tiny stem of the plant from injury, I had two short boards nailed together in the form of a V, and placed against the wall. The plant made several shoots, which were carefully nailed in as they grew. The only attention it has required since has been the pruning-off of the old flower-stalks and leaf-stems, and the equal distribution of the branches. I have it now trained over a surface about fifteen feet square, and it is capable of covering a much larger space, had it been at my disposal. I have never pruned off a single living bud, but as they burst into growth, have had them neatly tied in. Thus treated, they flower in wonderful profusion from early summer until late in autumn. At the beginning of last September, the flowers on this plant were counted, and the number then open was found to be 1275, the grand effect of which can scarcely be imagined. The plant well deserves the popularity which it has gained, being perfectly hardy, easily managed, and unrivalled in colour and flowering properties by any climbing plant I know."

Mr. Fowler very judiciously advises that in planting the now numerous and dissimilar varieties of Clematis for the ornamentation of wall surfaces, the operation should be performed with the view of allowing each plant, ultimately, to occupy a considerable space, as in this way only can its beauties be displayed to the fullest advantage. It may, moreover, be noticed as a peculiarity of Mr. Fowler's treatment, that he does not prune back his plants, nor, indeed, cut away any living buds, but trains in all the young shoots which are produced. That the results of this mode of treatment are satisfactory, the foregoing description of his specimen of *C. Jackmanni* abundantly testifies.



## INGER-POST FOR PURCHASERS OF PLANTS, SEEDS, ETC.

### CHOICE VEGETABLES FOR ALL PURPOSES.

In giving the undermentioned selection of vegetables, we cannot too strongly urge upon our readers the importance of giving their orders for seeds as early as it is possible for them to do so. Usually the seeds are not ordered until March, when a portion ought to have been sown, and not unfrequently some of the earliest crops are mixed altogether, through not having the seeds at hand when the ground is in a fit condition for their reception. We would suggest that all seed orders should be placed in the hands of the seedsmen some time during the month of February.

#### A SELECTION OF KITCHEN-GARDEN SEEDS AND ROOTS.

**ASPARAGUS.**—*Grayson's Giant* and *Conover's Colossal*.

**BROAD BEANS.**—*Early Mazagan* for the first crop; *Beck's Green Gem* and *Royal Dwarf Cluster* for growing in frames; *Monarch Long-pod* for productiveness; *Taylor's Broad* and *Green Windsor* for finest quality; *Johnson's Wonderful Long-pod* for exhibition and general purposes.

**BEEF.**—*Nutting's Dwarf Red*, *Henderson's Pine-apple Short-top*, *Dewar's Short-top Red*. For shallow soils, *Egyptian Turnip-rooted*. For the flower-garden, *Osborn's Dark*.

**BRUSSELS SPROUTS.**—Imported, *Scrymger's Giant*, *Mein's Victoria*.

**BORECOLE.**—*Common Green Scotch*, very productive; *Mein's Extra Curled* is extremely handsome; *Cottagers' Kale*, very hardy and productive; *Chou de Milan*, *Albert Sprouts*, very useful tall sorts.

**BROCCOLI.**—For a succession, *Grainger's Autumn White*, *Hammond's White Cape*, *Sutton's Superb*, *Snow's Winter White*, *Early Penzance*, *Cooling's Matchless*, *Beck's Dwarf White*, *Hammond's Imperial Hardy*, *Cattell's Eclipse*, *Carter's Late Summer*, *Purple Sprouting*.