

About half an inch of the stem was buried in the new soil, and the latter pressed firm between the old ball and the sides of the pot. The soil used was simply old rotted turf, and a small proportion of manure saved from a cucumber-bed broken up the previous autumn, and a little sand.

After they were repotted, they were placed in a frame in a sunny position, and kept close for a few days. In about a fortnight after the shift the leading shoots were stopped by pinching out the growing point. After this, air was admitted freely, and in fine weather the lights were drawn off altogether, and the only attention they received was supplying them with soft water, according to their necessities. Sufficient space between each plant was allowed in the pit to admit of the free development of the growth. They were removed to the conservatory as they came into bloom, and were placed so as to be fully exposed to the light and air. With the assistance of an occasional supply of guano water, they continued in full bloom until quite late in the autumn, and proved a great source of attraction to many of my friends, and afforded me a very considerable amount of pleasure and satisfaction.

NOTES ON BEDDING LOBELIAS.

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It is no doubt known to a large number of the readers of the FLORAL WORLD, that in my trial ground I thoroughly test the various classes of bedding plants. For several years past, I have grown a rather complete collection of bedding Lobelias, and have added the new varieties as they make their appearance. From careful observation of the merits of the several varieties now before the public, I have come to the conclusion that the under-mentioned are those of the greatest value for planting extensively in the flower garden.

VARIETIES OF ERINUS.

Brilliant.—This is a great improvement on all the varieties of the *speciosa* type. In habit it is dwarf and dense, and the flowers are large and of a beautiful dark blue. They are also produced profusely and continuously, and will eventually be very generally grown.

Compacta or Crystal Palace Blue.—This is extensively planted, and is really a splendid variety.

Indigo Blue.—Very rich blue, with a large clear white centre, forming an effective variety by its striking contrast in colours.

Speciosa grandiflora.—One of the best of its class for bedding and other purposes, being of a compact habit, and of freer growth than the well-known *Speciosa*, it having proved to be more lasting and hardy; the flowers are large, dark blue, with fine white eye.

April.

Blue Boy.—This fine variety stands the sun and heat better than any other of its class.

Trentham Blue.—The flowers of this variety are very large, of the most lovely blue colour, with a clear white eye; the habit is exceedingly vigorous and branching, and a perpetual succession of bloom is maintained during the whole season; for large beds, or a line in a riband border, one of the best.

Pearl.—This is as yet the nearest approach to a white variety of *Speciosa*; it partakes of the character of the latter in its compact style of growth and the profusion with which its flowers are produced. It forms a close compact tuft, and, when in full bloom, appears a mass of white. The individual flowers, which are very large, are pure white, with the upper lobes very slightly tinged with blue; it is a decided acquisition.

White Lady (Knight).—This is very similar to the above, and in habit quite equal to the old blue *Speciosa*; makes a fine edging.

Little Gem.—This may be considered a great improvement on *Paxtoni*; it is very dwarf and bushy, and presents a solid mass of bloom; the best of the light blues, with a white eye.

VARIETIES OF PUMILA.

Pumila grandiflora.—This is a close compact grower, never exceeding more than six inches either way, and it forms a solid line of blue, and continues all through the season in bloom. For edgings, diamond or scroll bedding, it is a decided acquisition, and one of the best bedding *Lobelias* we have. Small plants are the best for planting, as they continue in bloom all through the season.

Annie.—This is of a light lilac, equally as good as the above in habit, and as free blooming; it makes a fine soft coloured edging.

Celestial Blue.—This is often of the same habit as the above; but it differs from it in having flowers of a beautiful light blue.

Sunset.—This is not quite so dense in habit, but rather dwarfer in growth, it is therefore admirably adapted for carpet bedding; its colour is of a beautiful reddish lilac, with a small white eye. Perfectly distinct.

Purple Prince.—This is in every way similar but its colour, and equally as valuable, perhaps a trifle taller. Colour purple, tinged with brown, with a white eye; it is well adapted for edging, and makes a most effective line.

FRUIT FARMING IN MICHIGAN.—The *Chicago Tribune* publishes a communication descriptive of the fruit interest of that part of Michigan of which St. Joseph is the head. From this it appears that it is not an unusual thing for 30,000 packages of peaches to go forward to Chicago in one day. The price per package realized is less than 50 cents: the cost of marketing alone is more than 25 cents; leaving only a small margin to pay for labour and for profit.

NOVEL WAY OF TREATING THE PAMPAS GRASS.—At a meeting of the Central Horticultural Society of France, M. Vavin recommended a novel mode of treating the pampas grass during the winter. This is simply to barn the exterior of the tufts in the end of autumn, and then leave them to themselves. Plants treated in this way, he says, will, in the following spring, push earlier and better than if they had been protected with mats or other coverings.