

High Admiral.—Dark broad zone; a good grower, and first-rate.

James Richards.—In the way of *Beauty of Calderdale*, but neater and more evenly marked; first-class.

King of Bronzes.—Very bright zone; good compact habit; a telling variety.

Kentish Hero.—Bright yellow dark-shaded zoned foliage; a good grower; one of the best.

Maréchal M Mahon.—The very best bronze zonal amongst the new varieties; very dark, broad, and very even zone, flat leaf; good, robust, compact habit; first-class.

Model.—Foliage greenish yellow, with narrow zone; compact; distinct.

Mrs. Elliott.—Bright reddish maroon zone; good habit and free; first-rate.

Mrs. Reid.—Bright red zone, very effective; dwarf and compact.

Northern Star.—Bright broad zone; a good grower and free.

Plutus.—Foliage lively yellow, with bright red zone; moderate grower, effective.

Reine Victoria.—Very large foliage, yellow ground, with bright broad zone; free; first-class.

Rev. C. P. Peach.—Large bright foliage, with dark zone; robust and compact.

Rev. W. F. Radclyffe.—Dwarf flat habit; greenish yellow leaves, with narrow dark zone.

Sybil.—Dwarf and compact; very bright and broad zone; excellent; one of the best dwarf bedders.

The Moor.—Dwarf and compact habit; good foliage, with broad shaded red zone.

SUCCULENT PLANTS FOR BEDDING.

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DURING the last few years some of the succulent plants which at one time were grown as curiosities in the greenhouse and on the rockery, have become deservedly popular for bedding purposes, and their cultivation is rapidly extending on all sides. Their chief value consists in their adaptability for the formation of divisional lines in panel beds, and for edging purposes generally. They are so neat, and require such a small amount of attention during the season, that certainly they are in their way quite unsurpassed, and too much cannot be said in their favour. They are, moreover, marvellously cheap, good plants of some of the most popular and useful kinds being procurable at prices ranging from half-a-crown to six shillings per dozen. I mention this to show that they are as cheap as the commonest bedders, and within the reach of the humblest amateur.

June.

They are easily propagated by means of seed and the offsets. One or two kinds can also be propagated by cuttings.

In offering these remarks, my principal object is to show the way in which they should be used to produce the best effect, and it may be mentioned that for several years past I have by examples in my nursery attempted to show visitors the best way of employing them in the flower garden.

First of all we have the *Echeverias*, which require the protection of a frame or greenhouse during the winter season. One of the best known is *E. metallica*, which has large bronzy leaves, curiously twisted, and not unlike the blades of a screw-propeller. This is best adapted for planting in the centre of small beds, or in circles, or panels of large ones, with a carpet of some dwarf-growing plant, such as *Antennaria tomentosum* or *Sedum glaucum*. Good specimens employed in this way are very effective, but it is not desirable for planting in masses, as is sometimes recommended. *E. glauca metallica* is a most distinct and valuable hybrid, for it possesses the bold handsome leafage of *E. metallica*, and the silvery white-



ECHEVERIA SECUNDA GLAUCA.

ness and compact habit of *E. secunda glauca*. It may, therefore, be employed with great advantage for edging large beds, and also for divisional lines. It has the great advantage that when once planted it requires no further attention to keep it in proper trim. The most useful of the family is perhaps the dwarf-growing *E. secunda glauca*, which as an edging plant is quite unsurpassed. It forms pretty little rosettes from four to five inches across, and is most effective both when in and out of bloom. *E. secunda* makes a very good edging, but the leaves are green instead of silvery, and it is not so good for a marginal band, as it does not show so well against the grass, or box, as the case may be. Nevertheless, it is useful for some purposes.

E. pumila makes a neat edging, and as it grows naturally in clusters, the offsets must not be removed in the same manner as from the other kinds. *E. atropurpurea* has dark purplish leaves, but although very distinct it is less useful than many others. *E. pulverulenta* is very fine for choice beds, but as yet it is too expensive to recommend for general purposes.

The Sempervivums are of great value for bedding, and some of the most useful are perfectly hardy. Perhaps the best for edging is *S. Californicum*, which may be used in a similar manner to the



SEMPERVIVUM CALIFORNICUM.



SEMPERVIVUM TABULÆFORME.

dwarf-growing Echeverias; it is readily propagated by offsets, which are produced in plenty, but not so freely as to render them objectionable. The common houseleek, *S. tectorum*, may be employed for the same purpose as the preceding, but it is not so rich in colour, and the offsets are produced in such a plentiful manner as to quite spoil their symmetrical appearance. *S. globiferum*, *S. hirtum*, *S. montanum*, *S. umbilicum* *chrysanthemum* are all hardy, and are also useful for edging purposes.

There are several half-hardy kinds which have proved here to be of great value for bedding. The table plant, *S. tabulaforme*, is one of the most valuable of these, especially for edging purposes; it has not been employed very extensively as yet, because it has been scarce; there is, however, no great difficulty in its propagation, for within a very short period I have succeeded in raising several thousand. *S. arboreum atropurpureum*, *S. a. variegatum*, *S. Donckelaari*, *S. holochrysum*, *S. Youngi*, and several others, are also useful for planting in the centres of carpet and other beds, as they form very pretty specimens.

In forming edgings of Echeverias or Sempervivums of dwarf growth, it is most important for the edge of the bed to be firm and perfectly straight; the sides of the bed should slope slightly, and if two or more rows of plants are planted, a little cement should be mixed with the soil to keep it in its place. It is a very good plan to mix equal parts fine soil and cement together, and with the mixture form a face to the slope; the plants must, of course, be put in position before the cement has had time to set.