

pressed down over them. Water frequently, particularly if the house or frame is very warm. As soon as the seed leaf is fully developed, transplant into small pots, and when they have acquired sufficient strength, many kinds will succeed admirably if transplanted into the flower beds early in June.

Biennials and Perennials may be sown at the same time with Annuals of the same degree of hardiness, and treated similarly, except such of the hardy kinds as do not bloom the first year. These last may be thinned out or removed from the seed beds as soon as they are well rooted, and planted either into different parts of the garden, or into a nursery bed, in rows a foot or more apart. Keep them clear of weeds by hoeing and stirring the soil occasionally, which will greatly promote their growth and prepare them for transplanting in the permanent beds either in the Autumn or following Spring. Some biennials and perennials may be sown in September, or as soon as seeds are ripe, and if the plants get strong enough before the setting in of winter, most of them will flower the next summer. In transplanting, take care to reserve some earth to the roots, and tie the tall-grown kinds to neat poles or rods. Remove decayed plants, and replace them with vigorous ones from the nursery bed. Keep all the beds free from weeds, and the walks clean and neat.

Mode of Sowing Flower Seeds.

Much of the success of having a good display of Flowers depends upon the manner in which the seeds are committed to the soil; many failures arise from the inexperience of parties sowing the seeds *too deep*. As a general rule, the depth at which the seeds are sown will vary with their size. Large seeds, such as those of Sweet Peas, Lupins, Marvel of Peru and Nasturtion, may be sown one inch deep; seeds of Clarkia, Campanula, Mignonette, and other small seeds, should not be sown deeper than a quarter of an inch. Some that are very small require to be sown on the actual surface, a slight pressure being then sufficient to imbed them to proper depth. For the majority of seeds, a very slight covering suffices, if sown too deep they are longer in germinating, and the small ones are likely to decay. Woolly seeds, which adhere to each other, like Globe, Amaranthus, Rhodanthe, &c., should be rubbed with a little fine sand, which will generally separate them. In all cases, the more thinly the seeds are strewn the better. When too thickly sown the seedlings become elongated and sickly, an evil which no subsequent thinning out will entirely remedy. If the soil be dry and the weather sunny, it will be necessary to water the seeds slightly from a very fine rose watering pot. Rain water is preferable; in the absence of rain this application must be repeated every day or two, for it is important to observe that when once the seeds have begun to swell, they are peculiarly susceptible to injury from drought, and will speedily perish unless the soil be maintained in a moist condition—to the neglect of this important precaution many failures are solely attributable—on the other hand, an excess of moisture previous to germination will often cause the seed to decay, especially in cold seasons; early in the Spring, therefore, the water-pot must be used with judgment, and never late in the day when frosts threaten.

A FEW REMARKS ON THE GROWTH OF FLOWER SEEDS.

The following remarks should be carefully attended to by all who wish to be successful in growing Flowering Plants from Seed:

A great many of the choicest Flower Seeds are either grown by ourselves or obtained from growers of the first respectability, and their germinating qualities fully tested before sending out. Our seeds are therefore perfectly reliable. A great many persons, however, who do not understand the cultivation of some of the tender and small varieties, sometimes complain of the best seeds, which fail—not on account of the bad growing properties of the seed, *but solely from bad management*. We have heard repeated instances of many delicate seeds, like the Calceolaria, Chinese Primrose, and other delicate seeds, which can only be grown successfully in a green house, by a practical gardener, being sown in the open ground. On one occasion a party complained of certain varieties of fine seeds, that we found upon examination were sown from one to two inches deep—literally buried. Our advice is, do not order green house seeds unless you have facilities for cultivating them. The following remarks upon this subject from the London Gardeners' Chronicle, (the leading Horticultural paper of Great Britain) are so appropriate under this heading that we copy them entire:

“We all know how loud and ceaseless are the cries of gardeners, as well as amateurs, that the flower seeds they purchase will not grow. It never seems to occur to the complainants that they themselves are the executioners and the seed their victims, and yet we are perfectly certain, from nearly a half century's experience that such is the case. Seed of a plant inhabiting a dry country, with little winter's cold, and a genial, early, steady spring, are sowed here in the open border in March or April, then they lie in a most ungenial soil, exposed to wet or cold. But the force of nature is strong within them, nature will have its way, germination begins some bright sunny day, after which comes an ice cold dew at night and the young embryo is rendered torpid. Nevertheless, weakened as it is, the succeeding day sees a renewed effort at growth followed by renewed torpidity. The same alteration of paralysis goes on for a little while, till at last the powers of nature are exhausted and the seed