

D.M.

### Following the Flowers

By Eden E. Rexford

*Inquiries must give their names and addresses. Correspondents who enclose stamps or addressed stamped envelopes will be answered by mail.*

SEPTEMBER may be made a busy month by amateur gardeners. Those who are fond of Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocuses, and the other bulbous flowers of early spring must plant them now in order to secure the greatest amount of bloom from them next season. Late-planted bulbs will give but few flowers and these will be inferior in all respects.

In getting ready to plant bulbs spade the soil up thoroughly to the depth of at least a foot. Work it over and over until it is as fine and mellow as it is possible to make it, mixing into it, as you do so, whatever fertilizer you use. Those who can get it will do well to make use of old, well-rotted cow manure, which seems to be the ideal fertilizer for nearly all bulbous plants. Hardly too much of it can be used. Never use fresh manure if you want healthy plants. Bulbs are better off with no fertilizer at all than with this. If barnyard fertilizers are not obtainable substitute bonemeal, using that which is fine, like flour, in order that the bulbs may at once get the benefit of it. Coarse bonemeal acts slowly.

Plant your bulbs as soon as possible after they are received, as by exposure to light and air they part rapidly with their vitality. In order that there may be as little delay as possible in getting them into the ground make your beds as soon as you give your order. If this is done the bulbs may be planted as soon as received.

Put Hyacinths, Tulips and Daffodils at least four inches below the surface. The smaller bulbs will require about three inches of covering. The larger bulbs should be set from four to six inches apart, the smaller ones not more than three if a solid mass of color is desired.

I would advise keeping each kind by itself. Tulips, Hyacinths and Daffodils do not combine well; and this is equally true of the smaller sorts.

If color contrast is desired it will be necessary to purchase stock in which each color is by itself. This may necessitate a little more expense, but the result will amply repay you for the extra investment.

I am often asked the question, "Where would you locate the bulbbeds?" I invariably reply, "Near the house, if possible." Have them where their flowers can be enjoyed to the utmost. They will come at a season when the ground is wet and cold, and the pleasure they are capable of giving will be sadly wasted if they are in some out of the way place, which necessitates a special effort in making them a visit. Therefore, plant them near the paths and under the windows, where they can be seen at all times without any trouble. Their beds can be used for annually later in the season, without any injury to them, as the roots of the annuals will not penetrate the ground to any great depth.

All bulbs should be covered well in the fall. If this is not done at the North the action of frost in the soil will tear their roots loose, and often nearly heave them to the surface. By covering the beds to the depth of at least a foot with leaves, litter, straw, or something that will prevent sunshine from penetrating the soil and maddling the work of the frost, they can be taken then through the winter in the best possible condition. This treatment is particularly advisable for newly-planted bulbs.

Chrysanthemums which have been planted out during the season must be lifted and potted during the early part of the month. It is not safe to leave them in the ground longer, for two reasons, one of which is the frost which nearly always comes at the North about the middle of the month, and the other is the necessity of having the plants in pots before their buds have grown to much size. If you wait until the buds are well set before potting the plants you are pretty sure to interfere with the successful flowering of many of them. For this reason it will pay you well to have your Chrysanthemums all potted early in the month.

Do not begin to use fertilizers upon your Chrysanthemum plants until they have begun to grow. Then apply them, and keep up the use of them until the flowers come. It is very important that this should be done, because the plants cannot get much nutriment from the soil in the pot. Therefore feed them well by giving a fertilizer that can be readily assimilated. Apply it at least twice a week during the remainder of the season.

If there are any insects on the plants make a desperate effort to get rid of them before the time comes when the plants must be housed. Get one of the extracts of Tobacco now on the market and add a tablespoonful of it to a half of water. Dip the infested plants in this bath and allow them to remain submerged for several minutes or until you feel sure that every aphid is drowned, or so overcome by the nicotine in the water that it will not be likely to recover from the effect of it. If plants are taken into the house with a few insects on them, a very short time these will be inveterate allies with them, as aphids increase with wonderful rapidity in a warm atmosphere.

Line water will kill worms in flower pots. Put a piece of fresh lime as large as a coffee-spoon in

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