

The Garden Annual

roots to dry out at transplanting time. If to be carried any distance, they may be first dipped in a puddle of very soft mud, if it seems necessary. New plants are often made by sinking small flower pots into the ground beside the original plants and starting runners in them, cutting off the latter as soon as well rooted.

In order to produce the best berries, water must be given with a free hand. A mere sprinkling is worse than no wetting. The best plan in the home garden is to make a little hole in the ground beside each plant, if hill culture is practiced; or every foot or two, if the matted row plan is followed; and to turn at least a quart of water into each hole. Then, there will be no waste. Afterward, a little loose earth should be thrown into the hole, to prevent rapid evaporation.

If the watering can is indispensable, the hoe is almost as necessary. Cultivation should not be deep; but the earth should be kept loose at all times, and no weeds must be allowed to start. In order to get an extra fine crop of highly-colored berries, a little nitrate of soda may be worked into the ground around each plant, when the fruit is about half-formed. Many people use a mulch of straw, or similar material, the second and third seasons, until after the berries are picked. That keeps the ground moist without cultivation, and prevents the berries becoming soiled. It is often possible in the home garden to scatter lawn clippings thickly around the plants, so that the berries will rest upon them and not come in contact with the earth.

It is of the greatest importance to choose carefully the varieties to be grown. Probably, the best plan is to ascertain what sorts do well in your locality. It is wise to rely on them; but one or two other varieties may be experimented with. By selecting several kinds, it is possible to prolong the season, as some varieties bear much earlier than others. Among good sorts for the home garden are Oswego, Gandy (ripens late), Marshall, Early Ozark (ripens early), Senator Dunlap (ripens early and has a long season), William Belt (especially good for the table), and Aroma.

It will be news, and good news, to many people that it is now possible to have high-class strawberries in the fall, as well as in the spring; and the home gardener will be especially glad to learn that he can have a good crop the same season in which he sets out his plants. One of the vexatious things about strawberry-growing always has been the fact that the first crop could not be enjoyed until the second season. The fall strawberry, which has been perfected only after much experimenting, makes the long-desired consummation possible.

The history of the fall-bearing berry, as a practical proposition, dates back not more than twelve or thirteen years. In 1899, Samuel Cooper, of Western New York, found a plant of the old Bismarek variety which, with its eleven runners, was bearing a full crop of fruit in the fall. He transferred it to the family garden, and by careful cultivation developed a variety that retained the characteristic named above. It was named the "Pan-American," and all fall-bearing strawberries of any value are descended from this parent. Some of the seedlings of the Pan-American are the Americus, Francis, Superb, Productive, and Rockhills 6, 9 and 16. All have their peculiar advantages, varying as much as do different kinds of



Portulacas make charming borders for a garden walk

summer-bearing strawberries.

This plant should be set early in the spring, in the usual way, placing it carefully so that the bud is just above the surface of the ground, and the roots well spread out. If allowed to grow naturally, it would blossom from May until winter, and would bear a scattering crop of fruit from June until the frosts come. In order, however, to get a large and profitable crop at any given time, it is necessary to remove the blossoms up to within three weeks of the date selected. It is best to remove the blossoms up to August 1; the result will be a large crop from the last week in August until the ground freezes.

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Flowers the Renter Should Grow

JUST BECAUSE a man lives in a rented house is no reason why he should not have flowers in abundance all summer. He may not want to wait for perennials, however, or to spend much money for plants. He will seek for flowers which come early, and which stay late; flowers, too, which are not over-particular about soil conditions or cultural care. I am going to show what can be done with seventy-five cents, when annuals are used and a careful selection made. Below is my list. Some people may quarrel with it; but no one can truthfully say that the flowers named are not among the easiest to grow, attractive to the eye and chosen to give a long season of bloom.

Name	When to plant	Blooming season	Price per pkg.
Phlox Drummondii	May	July to Frost	5 cents
Petunias	May	July to Frost	5 cents
Nasturtiums	April and May	June to Frost	5 cents
Morning Glory	April	June to Frost	5 cents
Zinnias	May	July to October	5 cents
Portulacas	May	July to Frost	10 cents
Marigold	May	July to Frost	10 cents
Sunflowers	May	July to Frost	5 cents
Poppies	April	June to October	5 cents
Stocks	May	July to September	10 cents
Cosmos	May	August to September	10 cents

Total 75 cents

Few plants will give such a wealth of bloom, with so little care, as the annual phlox, coming, as it does, in many colors and in delicate shades, so that it harmonizes well with other flowers. The plants grow about ten inches tall, and are often used for edging beds and for borders along walks. The flowers must not be allowed to go to seed, and the season of blooming may be hastened by starting seeds in the house in March. Phlox Drummondii is one of the most satisfactory low-

growing plants for general purposes, and the renter will do well to make its early acquaintance.

The petunia is an old-time favorite; but the specimens grown now are far superior to those of long ago. It is a most accommodating plant, for it will make an excellent showing whether used in beds, borders, pots or window boxes. Extra early flowers may be had by starting seeds in the house in March.

Nasturtiums and morning glories should be planted wherever there is anything to train them on. One can hardly have too many, for there are no more friendly flowers in the garden. The renter's wife will fill fish bowls, or other wide-mouthed receptacles, with great bunches of nasturtiums and place them on the breakfast table. They will give the whole family inspiration for the day's work.

Portulacas open only when the sun shines; but the little, low-growing plants are unsurpassed for covering sandy places, where it is difficult to apply water. They seed themselves, year after year. Indeed, they spread rapidly, for they are close kin to that persistent weed known as pursley.

Zinnias and marigolds lack the delicacy possessed by the other flowers named; but they look well in beds by themselves. They are not at all exacting in their demands; they love the sun, but will blossom in partial shade; and they bloom bravely on, after most of the garden brigade has gone down before

Jack Frost. One often finds them in November.

If the renter has an extra nickel, let him buy a second package of poppies. They are worth growing in profusion. They ought to be massed, at any rate, to be most effective, and grown largely by themselves. Their colors are brilliant, and a long succession of flowers may be enjoyed by making several sowings a few weeks apart. It is very important to get them in early, and they must not be transplanted.

Some people don't like sunflowers; but they are the kind who fain would paint the lily and gild the rose. Grow these sturdy plants at the rear of the yard. They will hide the fence, and make a fine show. There are several varieties, and the plants should be thinned to fifteen or twenty inches apart.

Ten Weeks Stock, especially the double varieties, are among the plants which should not be omitted from the garden. If the renter had a grandmother in the country, he may be sure that stocks were the pride of her garden. The colors are white, pink, yellow and scarlet. It is best to grow the plants in clumps. The blossoms are fragrant.

Grow Cosmos for delicate, late flowers; and pinch off the tops when they are a foot high, so that they will make a bushy growth. The plants grow tall, so should be kept in the background, and they need staking. Here, then, is the renter's 75-cent garden. Isn't it a garden worth the money?



Drummond's Phlox—a good annual



Cosmos—a late bloomer

Flowers for the Summer Home

"I MISS THE flowers," said a city man regretfully. "We don't get to our vacation home early enough to plant any," he continued, "and the soil is so poor that they probably would not grow, if we did." The poor, flower-hungry man was mistaken. He reached his summer home by the middle of June, and it is not too late then to start portulacas, nasturtiums, morning glories, mignonette and four o'clocks. It is not too late to buy geranium plants, or asters, or zinnias.