Flowers For the Clubhouse

Cleveland expert makers selection of suitable varieties of hardy plants and perennials. Flowers most important for clubhouse decoration. Greenkeeper can cut expense budget by growing them.

By BURT G. SHELDIN, Greenkeeper
The Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio

I DON'T know how many greenkeepers have to furnish flowers for the club house decorations, but I have been furnishing flowers ever since my connection with the Country Club, over 20 years ago. I grow only the flowers which can be cut for the table although there are many varieties with beautiful flowers which will not stand up good after cutting, or the stems are too short. First I shall give you a brief account of the hardy plants which I grow for the club.

ROSES: I have about five hundred roses of the hybrid type, most of them hardy which I do not have to give protection in winter, but the hybrid tea I give a mulching of straw or leaves. The rose is one of our very choice flowers and should be grown in every garden. AGUELEIA OR COLUMBINE: is one of the most beautiful spring flowers, stems being two feet or so above the foliage.

PEONIES: There are a great many varieties of these flowers and they are very useful as they come in bloom when there are not many other flowers in bloom.

ACHILLEA: The Pearl. This plant is very useful, is two feet high and blooms during June and July.

COREOPSIS: A daisy like flower coming in bloom July and August.

PYRETHIUM: A small daisy like flower often called the painted daisy—July.

DELPHINIUM: There are several shades of blue, the spikes grow from three to five feet high.

HELENIUM: This plant sends up spikes from three to five feet tall, and when in bloom each spike will fill a vase. The colors are gold and copper.

PHLOX: There are a great many varieties of color, ranging from white to blue and purple, flowering in June and July.

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Hardy Perennials
There are hundreds of hardy perennials, but these are a few which I have chosen as the best.

ASTERS: Often spoken of as China Asters. There are a great variety of colors and one can raise Asters to cover a large period of the summer as they come early and late, but I have found the Semple's or American branching the best as the spikes often run two feet or more.

ANTIRRHINUMS OR SNAP DRAGON: There are three heights of these plants—tall, medium, and dwarf. For bedding the dwarf is the best but if wanted for the table, the tall is much better as the spikes are often two feet. They flower from early spring to winter and I have often had a vase of Snaps in the house for a week by changing the water daily.

ZINNIA: This is one of the oldest garden flowers, and I might say a very good one. They grow to about two feet high and will give flowers all summer. The Zinnia resembles the Dahlia somewhat, and they are spoken of as dahlia-flowering Zinnias.

GLADIOLI: In these flowers you can find any color you are looking for, and by planting at intervals you can have them over a long period. The Gladioli is a bulb grown plant and by getting a few to start with you will soon have plenty as they multiply very fast.

GALLARDIA OR BLANKET FLOWER: They are like the daisy only instead of being one color they are often all the colors of the rainbow. A splendid flower for cutting, growing the entire season on stout stems about fifteen inches in length.

CALENDULA OR MARIGOLD: You can get a large amount of bloom from one of these plants and I should advise growing them for the table decorations.

COSMOS: One of the most beautiful fall flowers, producing large flowers in many colors, some double, others semi-double and single. They grow from four to five feet and require a large space. Plants set about two feet apart.

Dahlia: The Dahlia is grown from tubers, and there are more and more varieties coming out every year. There are some very fine and large flowers of any color you wish to select. There are three varieties which I have chosen, Cactus, Decorative and Peony. I get a bigger thrill out of growing the Dahlia than from any of the many flowers which I grow.

Anyone starting to raise a few flowers for the table decorations will not miss it by selecting the varieties I have mentioned.

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