

GARDENING NOTES

(By MR. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

DECIDUOUS FLOWERING TREES.

In dealing with deciduous flowering trees worthy of a place in the garden, I will begin with the old favorite, the yellow laburnum, which is a native of Switzerland. This, with its yellow trusses, which adorn plantations and shrubberies in the early days of spring is very much admired. There are a good many varieties, but the old yellow is the favorite. There is one with golden leaves, which looks well amongst other trees, but the leaves being a golden yellow, the flowers do not show up so conspicuously as the old kind. There is also a purple one. Another very old class of trees which should be in every garden of any dimensions is the crataegus family. They commonly go by the name of the May tree or hawthorn. There are a good many varieties, and all are worthy of a conspicuous place in shrubberies. The delicate perfume which they give out of a fine morning is most pleasing. When in bloom they make a very fine show among other trees. There are a good many kinds to choose from, but in a large garden, a place ought to be found for the best varieties, such as the single pink, double pink, double white, etc. There is an endless lot of varieties, natives of all parts of the world. Some bear large red berries, which look very pretty: whilst others have very fine foliage. Another very pretty tree, suitable for garden decoration is *cercis siliquastrum* (Judas tree). This tree bears clusters of pink flowers. It is not met with very often in our gardens. Perhaps its name is against it: anyhow, it is well worth giving it a prominent place. It is a native of the South of Europe, but there are also other varieties. Another very pretty tree is the spindle tree (*euonymus europaeus*). This tree has orange-colored capsules, which look very showy in the autumn. It is a very desirable addition to other trees in a shrubbery. There are several other kinds, but I believe this is the most conspicuous of them. Another tree with purple leaves is a plum called *prunus pissardi* (a native of Persia). This gives variety to the green foliage of the shrubberies. The purple beech must not be left out, especially in a large garden, as it grows to a very large size. The flowering Japanese cherries (double pink and double white), and the double peach, and almonds are a fine variety of trees to plant in a garden. They flower early in the spring, when flowers are scarce: on this account they are great favorites, and are now to be found in nearly all gardens of any dimensions. The rowan, or mountain ash, with its clusters of red berries, gives variety to the autumn hue of the shrubberies: so, too, does the service tree, which resembles it. The tamarix is another tree which should not be left out. Its feathery foliage and pink plume-like flowers are very pretty. There are two varieties. The horse chestnuts, pink and white, look very showy in the early spring, and are suitable for a large place. The tulip tree (*liriodendron*) bears flowers like a tulip, hence the name. It is a large growing tree, a native of North America. Another large growing tree is the paulownia imperialis, a native of Japan. This has clusters of purple flower, and should be planted where it will have room to grow. As it grows to a large size it does well planted out in a lawn. Clumps of the pretty Japanese maples are very effective, when planted in favorable positions. The tree of heaven (*ailanthus glandulosa*) makes a very fine specimen when allowed plenty of room. It is a native of China, and has very fine foliage. A tree with a lovely autumn foliage, called liquidambar, a native of North America, is well worth planting. There are several maples, which are very suitable for a conspicuous place in the garden, notably the silver and golden-leaved varieties. The rhus, or sumach, has very pretty foliage, which turns a red hue in the autumn, and is very effective among other trees at that time of the year. As specimens on a large lawn, the weeping and horizontal elm, the weeping ash, and a few others of the same habit must not be omitted from the list.

My next article will deal with evergreen flowering trees, to be followed by one on deciduous flowering shrubs.

Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

The Danger of Pack or Field Ice.

During the autumn and winter the extreme cold in the Arctic regions holds the ice fast, and so far as this particular peril is concerned, the winter is the safest part of the year in the Northern Atlantic. Indeed, so far as the great modern liners are concerned, ice, and the risk of collision with other vessels or derelicts, are almost the only ocean dangers they have reason to dread. They can disregard the wildest storm and keep their course and, except under most exceptional circumstances, their speed, in spite of the wind and waves. Besides the icebergs, there is another risk which besets vessels in the spring and early summer months. This is the pack or field ice, which is poured out in vast areas from the great sounds leading into Baffin's Bay, such as Lancaster, Jones, and Smith Sounds. The pack, which may be anything up to eight or ten feet in thickness, consists of the floe ice formed on the surface of the Arctic seas during the winter. When spring comes it breaks away in huge fields, sometimes thousands of square miles in area, and drifts south on the Labrador current at a rate of from ten to forty miles a day. Its speed is considerably accelerated by northerly or north-westerly gales along the American coast, due to the high-pressure atmospheric systems formed over North America, while, on the other hand, it may be entirely checked, or even driven some distance northwards again by strong south-easterly storms. The pack ice never drifts so far south as the bergs, as it melts and breaks up much more rapidly under the influence of the warmer water brought up by the Gulf Stream. The general effect of the prevailing winds and ocean currents tends to cause the ice, both berg and field, to accumulate in a vast horseshoe-shaped area, of which Newfoundland forms the heel and the southern edge of the Great Banks the toe. In this area bergs and pack ice of all sizes are to be met.

Wonders of Scent-Making.

Chemistry, which is the mother of all sciences, is peculiarly apt in its duplication of the perfume of flowers. It has even duplicated the odor of new-mown hay. In the Patent Office at Washington there are shelves of bottles containing odors that no one can tell from the perfumes of flowers, yet none of these were distilled from a blossom. One perfume, however,—that of attar of rose—has not been satisfactorily compounded: but even that, the experts aver, will come in time. The oil that gives to the rose its fragrance is called rhodoneol. It is found in the lemon-grass and also in some of the geraniums. Efforts are constantly being made to extract the oils from these plants, only a slight modification being required to transform such oil into the attar. The production of artificial musk from coal-tar has practically driven the real article out of the market. Though not the same thing as musk, chemically speaking, its scent is indistinguishable from it. Genuine musk is obtained from a gland of the musk deer that roams the forests of Central Asia. Ethereal oils give to fruits their delicious flavours. There are hundreds of these oils, and every one of them can be not only counterfeited, but actually duplicated, as they are chemical compounds. It no longer pays to use real fruit syrups for soda-water, as all of them can be made with ethers. The largest commercial success in the way of an artificial flavoring is vanillin. This product is responsible for the low price of the vanilla bean, and has threatened more than once to drive it from the market.

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