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FOR THE GARDENER

BLEEDING HEART (*Dicentra* (formerly known as *Dielytra*))

The principal species is one which is well known in the garden, *D. spectabilis*, this is larger than the other species and its rightful place is among the bigger plants in the border or even in front of the shrubbery. The hanging "heart" flowers are rose pink with, in the early stages of development a rosy extension with white almost transparent wings on either side. Within each wing one can discern a minute droplet, possibly nectar. As the flowers develop the part below the main heart shape loses its rosy extension and the whole of this lower part becomes a creamy white. (The sketch accompanying this item will help to explain the words.) The foliage is attractive and generally it is a stately plant. There are no particular cultural instructions as the plant thrives in ordinary garden soil and increases from year to year. The initial planting is by a small corm and not too much must be expected of the plant in its first year.

Other species are:— *D. eximia* and *D. formosa*. These two are much alike producing hanging "hearts" in little clusters. The plants only grow to about six inches in height, they flower all summer, found mainly in N.W. America.



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HEART

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