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FOR THE GARDENER

HOLLYHOCK (*Althaea*)

Very popular cottage garden perennial plant. However having said that, it is best to raise new plants to replace the old ones which have been in the ground for 2 years. The reason for this is that they are subject to Hollyhock Rust which can stunt growth and also the size of the flowers are smaller on older plants.

This subject will grow in most reasonable soils but to get really first class specimens it pays to dig deeply mixing in well rotted manure or compost. Plants will attain to heights of 6 feet or over with long spikes of wide funnel-shaped flowers. The leaves are large and lobed. Best results are obtained if planted in a sunny position fairly sheltered.

This plant can be grown from seed sown outdoors in June and July, in cold areas the seedlings should be wintered in a cold frame. Plant out into flowering positions in October-April at the back of the flower border. In late Spring the plants should be staked and given a good mulch and during dry spells keep well watered.

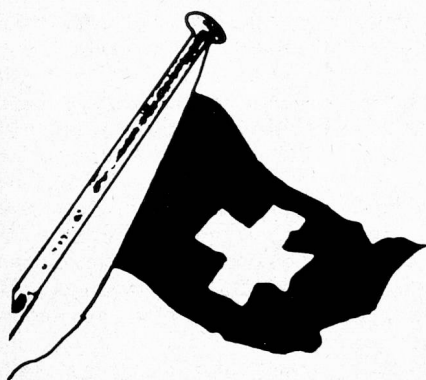
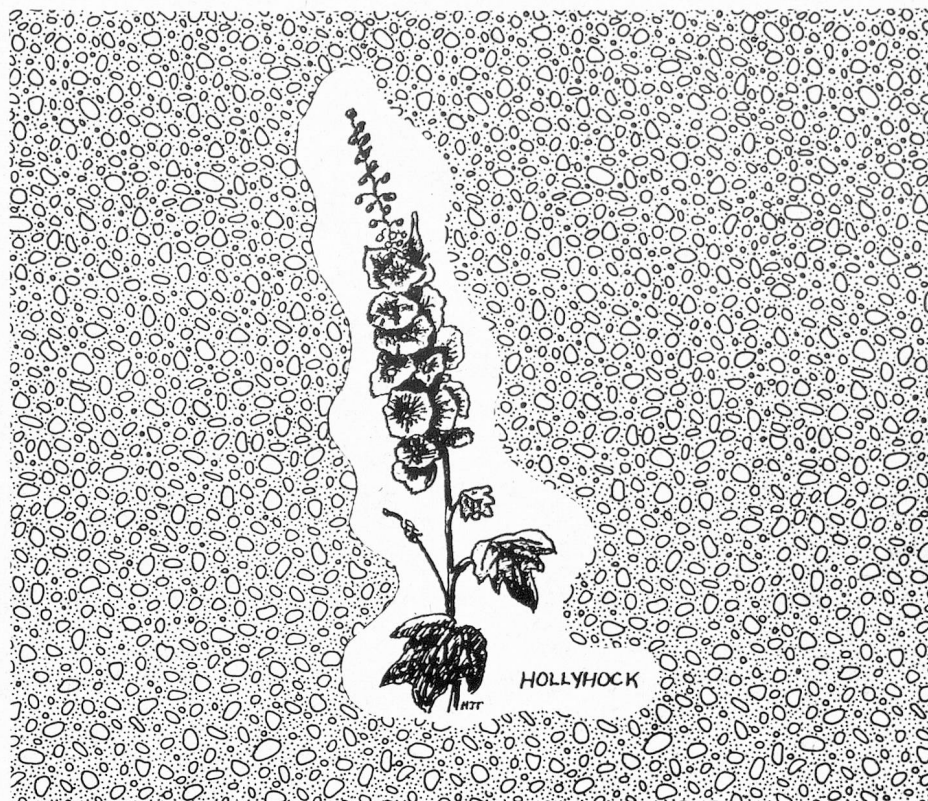
After flowering cut down to around 6 inches above ground level and protect during the Winter with bracken or cloches.

The plants may be obtained to bear either single or double flowers and there are several varieties and colours to choose from, some being as follows:—

"Golden Beauty", "White Queen", "Crimson King", "Prince of Orange".

The specie *A. rosea* can be had in

either double or single flowers which can measure up to 4 inches across and in colours, white, yellow, pink and red.



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