

### What to Sow in October.

The following is a list of seeds suitable for sowing in October. The list for September will be found in the August number of the magazine—

*Flowers.*—Amaranthus, calliopsis, cockscomb, cosmos, petunia, portulaca, sunflower, snapdragon, zinnia.

*Vegetables.*—Beans (all varieties except broad), beet (early), cabbage, Cape gooseberry, lettuce, mustard and cress, onions (for salads), peas, radish, sweet corn, tomato, cucumber, melons, pumpkins.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS.

### No. 6: The Drooping Blancoa.

(By C. A. GARDNER, Government Botanist.)

This remarkably pretty plant is one of our well-known native flowers, but is very uncommon, being found in only a few localities at the foot of the Darling Range between Muchea and Armadale. There is one patch which grows near the foot of the Kalamunda Hill, but this area is rapidly being depleted of the species. The plant is related to the Kangaroo Paws, being a member of the same family (*Amaryllidaceae*), but a most casual inspection will show that it is quite different. Its narrow grass-like leaves, and pendent tubular uncleft flowers render it quite distinct. The shape of the flower is rather distinctive, being tubular-funnel-shaped and slightly constricted about the middle, then widely expanded at the base. It is covered with dense feathery hairs which have the appearance of dull red wool. The base of the flower is most deeply coloured, and from here to the tips of the six segments there are broad stripes of red which shade off into a pale orange, almost imperceptibly, so that there are six longitudinal bands of lighter colour alternating with the lobes of the tube. There are no hairs inside, but the margins of the lobes are sharply inrolled, giving the appearance of a thick margin to the flower. The interior of the flower is a beautiful orange-yellow, and if you look down the inside you will see the summit of the three-sided ovary. The six stamens are inserted high up the tube opposite the lobes, and the filaments are very short and rather broad. The anthers are pale and open inwards, but the connective at the back is a chocolate-brown in colour. The style is long and thread-like, protruding just beyond the mouth of the flower, with three very small stigmas at the top. This denotes three ovary-cells, each of which contains several ovules, but only few seeds are developed from these.

The flowers are quite pendulous and swing freely in the breeze on very flexible stalks which have small purple-brown bracts at or near the base.

The Drooping Blancoa (*Blancoa canescens*) inhabits sandy soil, occurring in small colonies, usually in depressions. The leaf has nothing distinctive to remember it by, and when in leaf it would be passed by as a very common type of plant. When in flower, however, it becomes a very showy plant and never fails to attract attention. The generic name commemorates a botanist who lived about a century ago, and the name *canescens* refers to the hoary appearance of the flowers and their stems.