

POINTERS ABOUT WINTER HOUSE PLANTS.

seven-inch pot. Water well when potted, and put in a cool, dark place. Keep them there until they have made abundant roots, which will be in four to six weeks. To grow the Bermuda lilies, select large, heavy bulbs; put about three inches of compost on the top of drainage crocks, in a seven-inch flower pot; place the bulb on this, and cover with soil, not filling the pot right up to the top."

"Why shouldn't you fill the pot right to the top?"

"Because the lily will form adventitious roots, like that Mexican June corn, and you want to add a mulch for their benefit."

BULBS WITHOUT SOIL.

"Is it possible to grow all these different bulbs in water?"

"Hyacinths, and the Narcissus, commonly known as the Chinese sacred lily, are the only ones commonly grown in water. The Narcissus referred to has been so widely advertised that it is hardly necessary to describe its culture. The hyacinths are put in narrow glasses made for the purpose, which have a wider cup at the top, to hold the bulb. It is well to place the bulb in slightly damped sand for a few days before putting in the glass. The bottom of the bulb should just touch the water. Until the bulb has made roots about one inch long, the glass should be kept in a dark place."

"Is ordinary clear glass used for these bulbs?"

"No, opaque glass is preferable, because the roots should be in the dark. The water may be changed from time to time, about two drops of ammonia being added to the water in each glass. A lump of charcoal will aid in keeping the water sweet."

VARIETIES OF HYACINTHS.

"What varieties of tulips and hyacinths would you advise for house culture?"

"Single varieties are, as a rule, more satisfactory than the doubles. The small Roman hyacinths are the earliest to bloom. They should be planted in earth, three bulbs in a five-inch pot. They may be obtained in white, red or blue, and are in bloom long before the large Dutch sorts. Among Dutch hyacinths, a good selection of singles is the following: Blue—Charles Dickens, Czar Peter, King of the Blues, and La Peyrouse; white—La Grandesse, Mme. Van der Hoop, Grandeur a Merveille, and Baron Von Thuyll; yellow—Ida, William III., Heroine; dark red—Pelissier; pink, Gertrude, Lord Macaulay, Norma, Fabiola. One may buy unnamed sorts, in the different colors, cheaper than named sorts, and they are excellent for bedding; but I think the selected ones are safer for window use."

TULIPS AND THEIR VARIETIES.

"The earliest tulips noted outside are small red or white ones; are they suitable for the house?"

"They are the Duc Van Thol varieties, which are very early, hence are forced by florists who want tulips around the holidays. They are small and short-stemmed when brought into bloom about the holidays, and while it is well enough to have a few of them, there are better sorts."

"What varieties would you recommend for the house?"

"Singles by preference; a good selection would include Artus, bright scarlet; Chrysolosa, golden yellow; Keizerkroon, red and yellow; Cottage Maid, pink and white; Duchesse de Parma, red edged with yellow; Joost Van Vondel, red and white."