

PLUMBAGO CAPENSIS.

minds one of the appearance of fresh cut lead, but because *P. Europæa*, already referred to as a pity-producer for European beggars, produces also the substance called Plumbagine, and farther, a peculiar fat which gives to the skin a leaden color.

As garden plants nearly the whole of the order is much prized for beauty. The well known Sea-pink or Thrift found on the sea coasts of England, and used there largely as an edging for flower beds, is a member of this family. Its botanic name is *Armeria vulgaris*.

Now, after having spoken of some of the properties of the family at large, I want to speak a word for *Plumbago Capensis* as a very desirable plant for house, greenhouse or garden cultivation. In habit it may be said to be half shrubby. It is practically a perpetual bloomer. Its flowers are produced in large clusters of a beautiful light blue color—a color not possessed by any other plant with which I am acquainted, and while it is not so hardy as to stand the Canadian winter it may be so managed that it will be an object of great beauty on the lawn or in the herbaceous border in late fall when we have such a scarcity of flowering shrubs.

The illustrations accompanying this article were taken from plants on my lawn late in October of the present year, and the plant in a pot, Fig. No. 1481, was photographed at the same time, three weeks after having been dug up out of the flower border where they had been planted out in June.

Figs. 1482 and 1483 represent shrubs over 6 feet high. No. 1481 was a plant which grew all last winter in the centre bed of my conservatory along with begonias, cytisus, abutilons cannas, poinsettias, and a Bouganvilleas, etc., all in a blaze of color; yet the plumbago commanded attention even in such gor-

geous company, by the number and peculiar delicacy of its graceful blossoms. Another plant grew on the back wall of the greenhouse reaching the height of 8 feet, and bloomed continuously through the winter. No. 1482 was cut back a little and lifted and planted on the lawn in early June, and had assumed the proportions and bloom as shown in September, blooming through October until two nights of frost at 22° robbed it of its glory. I noticed, however, in spite of this ordeal, a few mild days succeeding, it actually ventured to unfold a few more of its delicate blossoms. Fig. 1483 represents a plant grown for two years in a pot and planted out on the lawn at the same time as the other, and after being allowed to pass through the frost referred to above, was potted and is now making fresh growth which in a week or two will again delight us with its bloom. It is easily grown. All it requires is good friable loam enriched with decayed manure. As it soon fills the pots with roots, watering must be carefully attended to. Frequent syringing with water is necessary as the red spider seems to consider its leaves a special delicacy, and is the greatest enemy it has. It is easily propagated from cuttings; half-ripened wood in sand soon emitting roots. It grows rapidly and is one of my most satisfactory greenhouse shrubs. If planted out in early summer and lifted before frost injures it, it never fails to give a profusion of bloom for many weeks.

If the flowering side-shoots are cut back when the flowers fade, the supply of fresh flowering wood will be kept up.

I trust many of the readers of the HORTICULTURIST, especially those who have greenhouses, will get a plant of *Plumbago Capensis*, and I am sure they will be delighted with it.