

Plants and Flowers.

CLEAN FLOWER POTS.

Considerable expense is incurred by nurserymen and florists in removing the growth of algae (protococcus) from pots in greenhouses. The growth of this plant is so rapid that frequent shiftings from dirty to clean pots is necessary in addition to the scrubbing with soap, sand and water. After trials of various devices, some of which were fairly satisfactory except as to expense, and after numerous experiments with many solutions, some of which accomplished their object but afterward injured the plants grown in the pots, it has been found that ammoniacal solution of copper carbonate is most satisfactory in preventing this trouble.

As a final test of this substance, new pots were soaked in the solution made as described below, others being left untreated as a check. At the end of six months the untreated pots were literally covered with the pest, while those that had been soaked were almost as clean as when purchased and showed no signs of the growth. Old pots which had accumulated growths were also soaked in this solution and then scrubbed and they remained as clean as when they left the scrubber. They did not, however, look quite as good as new ones. Make a solution of copper carbonate in just enough ammonia to completely dissolve it. Since ammonia varies in strength, the exact amount cannot be given, but about a pint of ordinary strength will be enough for two ounces. Add, when dissolved, to 16 gals of water. Soak the pots a day or more, after which they may be used at once or dried.

Soaking at intervals of say a year should prevent this nuisance and, considering the great saving of labor and expense, even when boys are employed, this soaking should not be a very serious matter.—[M. G. Kains.]

THE SAND CHERRY.

Many wild plants found on the prairies and plains possess points of beauty, and few are superior to the sand cherry. This has been introduced in recent years as a fruit-bearing plant, and promises to become of value for that purpose, but it is especially to be recommended for ornamental planting. It forms a graceful, spreading bush or shrub, which, early in May, becomes a mass of white bloom. Its chief recommendation lies in the character of its leaves, which are bright and glossy, giving somewhat the effect of the broad-leaved evergreens, which do not thrive in our climate.

The plant is perfectly hardy and wild plants transplanted to the station garden have made an excellent growth, without loss. The plant is also in the trade, and may be obtained from nurserymen, usually under the name of Dwarf Rocky Mountain cherry. It is easily grown from seeds, is a profuse bearer and the fruit makes excellent jelly. It is also good for pies and sauce, though possessing a certain stringency, somewhat like that of the choke cherry. The fruit is nearly as large as the Early Richmond cherry, though plants vary greatly in this regard. It ripens later than other cherries, hence filling a place by itself. In ornamental planting it will serve a most useful place, both by itself or as a foreground for larger groups. The leaves appear early in spring and remain until late in autumn, being uninjured by early frosts. It also gives desirable autumn tints.—[Prof. F. W. Card, Neb Exper Sta.]

The Interest in Sweet Peas is not abating in the least. They offer such a great variety of colors and are such good flowers for cutting as to always be popular. Early planting in moist, cool soil is the one thing necessary to success.

For a Second Stalk of Easter Lilies from the same bulb, after flowering, let the top die down naturally, gradually withholding water until the foliage is all yellow. Then remove the stalk and set the pot containing the bulb outside, giving it only water enough to keep the bulb from shriveling up. When it shows signs of starting into new growth, which is likely to be in five or six weeks, water it well with manure

water once a week and place a heavy mulch on top of the soil in the pot to keep it from drying out. Treat the plant in every way as it was treated before, and a second stalk of lilies will appear in early fall, with about half as many lilies as it produced the first time. After this flowering, set the bulb in the ground about 10 in deep to let it regain its strength. It will then produce flowers every year if carefully mulched each fall to prevent freezing. The bulbs are not hardy in the north, but usually live with protection as far north as Milwaukee.—[Laura Hastings,]

Cuttings of Plants for the flower garden may be started in a cutting box in the window, which should be as long and wide as desired for the limited space and about four or five inches deep. It should be filled with clean river sand. When the cuttings are first made they should be shaded during the heat of the day and sprinkled several times a day until the cuttings become thoroughly established. The sand should always be kept moist but never wet.—[W. H. Moore.]

Perennials and Biennials and hardy annuals which come from self-sown seed are much more satisfactory than the tender annuals for the flower garden. When once established they live and bloom for years without much care, while the annuals must be started from seed or cuttings every year. Among the best of these are hollyhocks, columbine or aquilegia, iris for damp locations, artemisia, antirrhinum or snapdragon, lily of the valley, narcissus, peonies, bleeding heart, pyrethrum, violets and the many varieties of lilies.

Begonias are in every way adapted to window and greenhouse culture, almost vying with the old favorite geranium in the variety of forms into which by cultivation and crossing it constantly sports. The oldest, and years ago about the only member met with in window culture, Evansiana or discolor was commonly called beefsteak geranium, from the red color and markings of the under parts of the leaf. There are two distinct types of begonias, both suitable for window culture, one with ornamental foliage used for large plants, one to a window, such as rubra, metallica, Alba picta, Louis chretien, mabunda, the rex and erodod section, and argentea guttata, which has leaves of a wine color spotted white. The second class have small leaves, bushy in habit, suitable for small plants. These include Semper florens, Schmidt's multilora and the beautiful verna, which flowers when only a few inches high.—[Edgar Sanders.]

In Starting Seeds bake the soil thoroughly, stir until all lumps are broken and then sift through a wire sieve. Scatter the seed over the surface of the soil after the boxes are filled and sprinkle just enough soil over them to cover about the thickness of the seed. Then set in a dark place. After three or four days bring to the light, but do not keep them too near a fire. In watering, the little seeds are apt to be disturbed by the finest sprinkler. From the time they are planted until they show well above the soil, it is better to wet a rather heavy cloth and lay over the box. As it dries, dampen again and sufficient moisture will be given off to dampen the soil beneath.—[Lalla M. Annable, Pa.]

Some Good New Geraniums are Jean Vland, Clyde, Manteau du Feu, Mme Goveux and Mrs Gordon Linzee. Clyde is a beautiful single scarlet, a sprout from Mrs E. G. Hill, in every respect like its parent, except color, which is pure scarlet, of soft, even shade. Florets are immense, 2½ to 3 inches in diameter. It is a grand bedder and also a fine pot plant.—[E. G. Hill, Ind.]

In the Selection of Seed look first for quality and pay the price if it is any way reasonable. With cheap or old seed, the expense of preparing the land, fertilizers, time and labor is thrown away. Trying new varieties is interesting, but it is also disappointing and expensive, as not more than one in 20 proves to be of more value than the old standard sorts. New varieties should be tested at public expense at the experiment stations and agricultural col-

leges. Small gardeners should not attempt to grow their own seed, as it is cheaper to buy it where there is a reliable firm to deal with. When a seedman proves satisfactory, stick to him. Don't go running after strange gods, but let well enough alone.—[Mary E. Cutler, Worcester Co, Mass.]

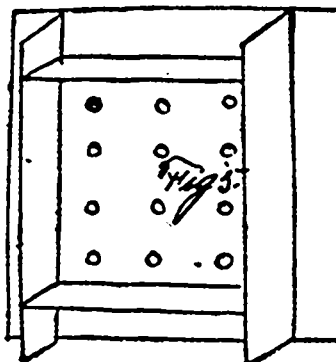
Sand Is a Good Soil in which to start many kinds of seed, especially those which are large, sprout quickly and are soon pricked out into pots or boxes. Covering the seedbed with sand will prevent baking and crusting before the young plants appear.

Bees require at least 25 lbs honey in the hive for successful wintering during the average winter.—[A. H. Duff, Kan.]

I have been a subscriber to F & H 2 yrs, and although several others usually arrive at the same time, F & H is the first for me to read.—[A. E. Bower, Columbia Co, N Y.]

THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

New York, Feb 5.—Beans and poultry higher, eggs lower and unsettled, other goods generally steady. Beans, ch marrow \$2 15¢ 25 p bu, medium 2 20, pea 2 20 20, red kidney 2 25¢ 30, yellow eye 2 25¢ 35, Cal limas 3 55; beeswax 27¢ 28¢ p lb; butter, western extra cmy 25c, firsts 24¢ 24½¢, N Y cmy 24¢ 25c, N Y dairy 24c, fresh factory 18¢ 18½¢. Cheese, full cream, large 13c p lb, small 12½¢ 13c, light skims 10½¢ 11c, full skims 4¢ 5c. Dried fruits, ch to fey evap'd apples 7½¢ 8½¢ p lb, sun-dried quarters 4½¢ 5½¢, chopped 1 40¢ 1 60 p 100 lbs, blackberries 6¢ 6½¢, evap'd raspberries 13¢ 13½¢, huckleberries 14¢ 15c. Eggs, fey new laid, nearby 21c p dz, N Y and Pa 19c, western fresh 19c. Feeds, bran 17¢ 20 p ton, middlings 17¢ 20, cottonseed meal 25 60. Fresh fruits, apples 24¢ p bbl. Hope, N Y '99 crop ch 12½¢ 13½¢ p lb, Pacific '99's 12½¢ 13½¢. Potatoes, fey N Y 1 60¢ 2 p bbl, N J 1 25¢ 1 75. Poultry, dressed turkeys ch to fey 11¢ 12c p lb, chickens 10¢ 16c, fowls 8¢ 11½¢, aquabs 2¢ 3 50 p dz, live fowls 10¢ 10½¢, turkeys 8¢ 9c, ducks 50¢ 80c p pr, geese 1¢ 1 50. Vegetables, cabbage 6¢ 9 p 100, turnips 60¢ 80c p bbl, strings beans 1¢ 3 50 p bu.



POULTRY BROODER—See Page 80.

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