

The kinds preceded by (3) should be grown in pots sunken to the rim in earth, in a spot shaded for about three hours at mid-day. If no other shade is convenient, let the plants stand together in some spot and place a canopy, made of lath nailed an inch apart on a frame and raised about four feet from the ground directly over them. A small empty pot should be set under the middle of each pot containing a plant, to prevent the roots from sticking through the drainage-hole into the soil beneath.



FIG. 962.—TEDESCANTIA.

from fierce winds.

The plants preceded by 5 are comparatively rapid growers, and will summer well if knocked out of their pots and planted in the open soil, where they will grow until September. Such plants as are kept through the summer in pots should be carefully tended. They must never suffer for want of liberal watering. When water is given, saturate the soil thoroughly to the very center of the plants' ball of roots. In cases where root-growth is active, the plants should be repotted into pots a size larger, whenever an examination of the ball of earth shows a lacework of white roots surrounding it. To remove a ball of roots from its pot, invert the plant with the surface of the soil resting on the palm and outspread fingers of the left hand, and with the bottom of the pot grasped firmly in the right hand. Strike the rim of the pot sharply upon the edge of a table or bench, and the ball of earth and roots will be dislodged. Rapid-growing plants like chrysanthemums should be pinched back at intervals until August to make them branch freely. Such plants in particular must not be allowed to suffer even once for lack of water, as this will cause the lower leaves to turn yellow and drop.

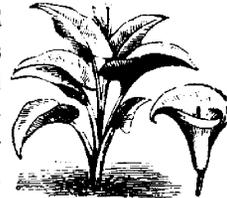


FIG. 963.—CALLA LILY.

To provide good soil for the window plants is an essential point in their successful cultivation. None is better for the average of plants in the list given than what florists call "fibrous loam." This is made by cutting sod about three inches thick from an upland pasture lot, or from a country roadside, and stacking it up for some months before it is used. Broken up in rough pieces the size of marbles, such soil contains, with the addition of a sprinkling of fine old manure or bone-dust, all the elements really necessary for a plant's existence. It is a mistake common among window-gardeners to suppose that finely-sifted soil is most congenial to plant-growth; one that is somewhat rough and fibrous is much better.

The beauty of the winter garden is well insured by such a selection of plants, cared for in the manner indicated until autumn, when further directions will be in order.—American Gardening.