

beneficial to plant life, but when it comes to utter neglect and carelessness, even to plants in a resting condition, sorrowful regret at the loss of our summer favorites is the inevitable result of our inattention. Lack of knowledge as to the requirements of plants when taking their winter season of rest, is another factor that is accountable, oftentimes, for failure in wintering-over plants. Possibly there is no one phase or period of cultivated plant life that is less understood or that information is more eagerly sought for by plant lovers than this resting period. A lower temperature and a less bountiful supply of water, or the withholding of water altogether in some instances, are the principal factors in inducing rest or partial rest in plant life. How much or how little of these factors to give or to withhold from the plants is the great problem to solve.

POT HYDRANGEAS.

These plants are of Japanese origin, and are of a deciduous or leaf-shedding nature. Towards autumn, when the blooms have become rusty looking, the plants should be watered less frequently than in the summer until the leaves show signs of decay, when only sufficient water should be given them so as to keep the soil barely moist.

Keep the plants outside in the open until they have been exposed to five or six degrees of frost a few times, when before severe frost the plants can be lifted underneath the veranda or into a shed for a time before being put into the cellar, basement, or a cold room for the winter. A rather moist cellar with a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees will suit the hydrangea. If the atmosphere of the cellar is very dry or furnace heated, wrap the branches of the plants in several thicknesses of burlap or coarse sacking, tea matting, or similar material.

Sprinkle the wrapping about once a week with water. This will keep the wood or growth of the plant from shrivelling, an es-

sential point in wintering over the hydrangeas successfully. Laying the plants down in a box and covering with dead leaves is a very good plan in a dry cellar, but watch out for mice, or they will soon ruin the plants underneath the leaves. I have found excelsior wood-packing fibre, or even fine shavings, a good substitute for leaves and not so likely to attract mice.

FUCHSIAS.

These require very much the same treatment as the hydrangea, but the tender cultivated varieties of these plants will not endure as much frost as will the hydrangea, although two or three degrees of frost will not injure them materially. A moist atmosphere in a cellar where a temperature of 45 degrees prevails will suit fuchsias when resting. The soil in the pots of both hydrangeas and fuchsias should never become dust dry even in a low temperature.

UNCOMMON SHRUBS.

Amongst the evergreen shrubs that can be used very effectively for out-door decoration purposes in summer time and that are seldom seen here, although very common in England and Europe, are the Ancubas, the Myrtle, Japanese Euonymus, Lauristinus, and the Bay Tree. All of these require very similar treatment to the oleander in winter. The mistake is too often made of treating specimens of these evergreen plants in the same way as deciduous plants are treated. Keep all of the plants just named in a temperature of 45 to 50 degrees, avoiding by all means a dry furnace-heated atmosphere. Better a cool damp root cellar for them where there is some light and the temperature near to freezing point all winter than in a dry arid atmosphere. All of these plants are becoming popular for summer and winter decorative purposes.

In giving the temperature and other requirements of the plants I have been speaking of, conditions and temperatures have been named that can usually be found