

MANURE FOR FLOWER BEDS.

mention. The former has thick waxy petals, a characteristic of all the Speciosums, the color is glistening white, spotted and clouded with rosy scarlet, each petal is bordered with the same color. Opal is still more grandly colored, the petals appear as if covered with hoar

frost, delicately suffused and heavily spotted with crimson, and tipped with white. These two are still held at an almost prohibitive figure.

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FRESH compost can only be used with benefit as a mulch in late autumn to prevent the heaving of newly set plants. If compost is to be applied to bulbs or the roots of perennials, it should be at least a year old, and thoroughly rotted. A cow and a flower bed travel well together, provided they are kept in separate compartments. The barn yard muck where cows are kept is an excellent plant food; in our estimation it is the best, and whenever we can obtain plenty of it we wish for no other. That part of the enclosure which is free from coarse straw and stable litter, in which the animals thoroughly pulverize their droppings with their feet and incorporate them with the soil underneath contains the correct thing. Scrape this into heaps with hoe or rake, take it to your flower beds and spread it over them in the fall, be liberal with it, don't be afraid, and you will marvel the following summer at the wonders of floral creation. The effect is astonishing. You need no longer lament that your flowers are not as fine as grandmother's were a half century ago. Your plants will receive new life, and their vigorous growth will defy the ravages of the insect world. It will make them more floriferous, and

the brilliancy of the colors will surprise you.

The leachings of manure water that accumulate in a depression of the barn yard are a treasure, and should be utilized. Carry them to your rose and hydrangea beds after a heavy rain, apply the liquid with a sprinkling can with the rose removed; there let the solution percolate through the soil down to the thread-like, fibrous roots, where nature's alchemist will assimilate them, and mark the result.

If all the barn yard leachings that are now running to waste throughout the country could be utilized in this way, two roses would bloom instead of one, our hydrangeas would have heads twice as large, and other plants would be equally floriferous. Barn yard leachings can be applied with equal benefit to all perennial plants and small fruits. Celery fairly revels in it, and we are safe in saying that a corn stalk would produce twice as much corn.

If we persist in setting out flowering plants and watch them slowly starving to death without making even the feeblest effort to succor them, we will never be successful floriculturists.—Rept. Pa. Hort. Soc., '95.