

freezes about one inch. Bulb beds planted earlier in the season will be benefited also by having a mulch over them.

Dig the old flower beds and make new ones. Digging now will make the soil in fine condition next spring.

Top-dress the lawn with stable manure or with a specially prepared compost.

#### FLOWERS INDOORS

An indoor window box is useful for wintering some kinds of tender plants and for growing most anything that will grow inside. Have the box eight inches wide, six inches deep and of sufficient length to fit the window. Make holes in the bottom for drainage. Provide a tin tray to fit under the box for catching the water that soaks through. Support the box with brackets and attach the tray to the box with hooks. Place some broken flower pots over the holes in the bottom of the box and fill with soil.

Plant some more bulbs in pots this month. Those potted five or six weeks ago may be brought to the light if they

are found to be well rooted. Bulbs cannot be grown successfully unless they have a good root system before much top growth begins. Freesias should be placed in only medium light until started.

Try some Chinese sacred lilies and some hyacinths in water bowls. Support the bulbs with stones.

As the days grow colder, increase the temperature for house plants if practicable. On fine days, give the plants a draught of fresh air. Sprinkle the plants occasionally to keep down red spider and use tobacco water for aphids. Do not water plants too often. Give them water only when they need it and that is when the surface soil becomes dry.

Prepare potting soil for use next year. Get some sods and place them in a square pile grass side downwards. On each two layers of sods place a layer of manure five or six inches thick and continue building until you have sufficient. Next year this will form the basis of a good potting soil for nearly all kinds of plants.

soil. To eradicate these insert two or three matches into the surface of the soil, heads down. These will bring them to the surface to face the foe. A pinch of salt in water also proves effective.

Plants naturally require less watering in winter, but where a house is kept warm, plants should not be allowed to droop their leaves. A heavy watering is better than driplets every day. Water in the morning to have the plants dry at night. Use water that is tepid. Palms, ferns and asparagus should not get too dry. These are evergreens and are making fresh leaves all the time.

Give the plants a turn around occasionally to make the growth uniform. To remove dust from the plants give them an occasional cleansing. A piece of soap, two gallons of tepid water and a wine-glassful of coal oil, well mixed, is a good home-made article to clean plants and to ward off bug, scale, greenfly and other pests. This mixture is good to clean palms, ferns and for all plants. Geraniums are the only subjects that I know to object to coal oil.

Should the plants get only slightly frozen, some severe night, they can often be saved by keeping them cool all day and away from the sun. Allow the frost to come out gradually. Removing them into a sharp heat in the morning is the worst possible thing to do. Layers of newspapers is a good protection to all plants in low temperatures. Keep all house plants on the dry side. They are then less susceptible to damage by frost.

## The Care of House Plants in Winter

A. V. Main, Gardener to B. Rosamond, Almont, Ontario

**P**LANTS that have been enjoying the outdoor weather should all now be indoors. Without the use of a greenhouse some care is required to keep plants alive and in good condition over winter. Good window light is essential to catch all the sun that is going.

Ferns do well in north windows and corners of a room. They do not like too much sun heat, although the winter rays would do no harm. Fibrous rooted begonias do first-class in the centre or side of a room, particularly the Rex type, with the beautiful marked foliage. Coleus or "foliage plants" as they are generally called, do best in the heat of the sun, to bring out the bright colors of the leaves.

Geraniums want good light and air to flower in winter. Geraniums that have flowered all summer need not be expected to bloom satisfactorily in winter. More attention should be given these fine blooming subjects. For winter effect, the buds should have been kept off all summer and the plants grown in good soil, and fully exposed to the sun to mature the wood. With a little artificial feeding after bringing inside, you will have a forest of large trusses. The geranium is a splendid flowering plant in winter.

Chrysanthemums need a little artificial manure to expand the buds. When done flowering, cut over and store in the cellar and procure cuttings in spring. To keep plants healthy, good drainage comes first; stagnant water is the first

cause of disorder—leaves droop, become yellow, and you will have a weak, puny plant, an easy victim to insect pests. Plants in cans must have suffi-



A Fine Specimen of Amaryllis

Grown by Mrs. J. H. Horning, Hamilton.

cient outlet for water. The idea must be for water to pass through the roots and soil easily and not to remain stagnant in the bottom.

Plants in vases or jardinières should not rest on the base of them, for this is destructive. The water standing two and three inches in the jardinière becomes sour. Raise the pots three inches, by means of a block of wood or other suitable article.

Worms clog the base of a pot with

### Fumigation with Cyanide

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST: In your September issue reference is made to the use of cyanide of potassium for killing white-fly in the greenhouse, and one ounce to 1,000 cubic feet is recommended. It is not necessary to use this strength to kill the white-fly and nine times out of ten one ounce to 1,000 cubic feet will injure the plants. We have had no difficulty in killing this insect with one ounce to 4,000 cubic feet.

In a house containing 12,000 cubic feet, we use the two jars containing the following: six ounces of water (by measure) three ounces of acid (by measure) and one and a half ounces of cyanide. The water is poured into a pint fruit jar, and the acid is poured into this. The jars are taken to the house to be fumigated and after everything is closed down the cyanide is quickly placed into the jar and the door closed at once.

We have had injury from the use of one ounce to 2,000 cubic feet under certain conditions. We never think of using one ounce to 1,000 cubic feet. My advice is to use not more than one ounce to 4,000 cubic feet and, if found necessary under your particular conditions, use more. If the cyanide is in large lumps we break it up some. It is then