

cannot cut the flowers easily. You have got to get on both sides to cut them. We find that they do better without too much water. That may be because I take a hand cultivator and pull it around them every day. I don't think I missed a day without stirring up the soil. I was told that it was not necessary to work the ground so much, but I wanted nice flowers, and I had them.

### How I Grow Freesias

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST,—In your February issue you ask readers to tell their experience with freesias in the window garden. We have grown freesias successfully in winter for over twenty years. The treatment we give is as follows:



A Pot of Freesias

Fill each pot with bulbs closely planted, as they are small, and neither the narrow knife-like leaves, nor the slender stalks take up much space. Use rather shallow pots, with moderately rich soil,

preferably decayed leaf mould (woods earth), leave in a sheltered place for about two weeks, and then place in a sunny window. Water moderately.

Freesias come to us from the Cape of Good Hope under burning skies; therefore, they like the heat of the sun. If they do not get lots of sunshine the grass-like foliage will grow tall and limp, fall over and no bloom will appear. If planted about the beginning of September, they will bloom in February and fill the house with sweet incense all their own. The perfume alone of the freesia would make it a favorite, but added to this charm is its perfect beauty.

When done blooming, set the pots in the cellar or dark place, safe from mice or squirrels. In the fall take them from their grave and you will find the bulbs just as good for forcing as ever, with many others added.—Mrs. W. J. Arnott, Churchill, Ont.

Grass can stand more cutting than weeds.

While the snapdragon is increased usually by seeds sown in the open, it may be propagated also by cuttings taken in late summer and early fall, when they will readily root in a cold frame or in the house by the window.

The best tying material for tying up plants in the greenhouse, window garden or outdoors, and for budding, is raffia. It comes from the eastern tropics, and is the product of a palm. It may be purchased from seedsmen.

## Planting for Winter Effect in the North\*

George Edward McClure, Buffalo

ONE of the best opportunities for brightening up the winter landscape is offered to us with a lavish hand in the bright colored branches or twigs in shrubs and trees. Who of us has not been charmed, after the leaves have fallen, with a large mass of the red osier dog wood (*Cornus stolonifera*), as seen from the window of a train? The effect is lasting. A number of the cornus are useful in planting for winter effect. The best are *C. alba Sibirica* and *C. stolonifera* for red stems, and *C. stolonifera* var. *flaviramea* for the yellow effect of its branches. When planted in large masses beside the brilliant green branches of *Kerria Japonica*, the effect is really wonderful. There are numerous species of cornus, among which might be mentioned *C. Amomum* and *C. circinata*, with bright colored bark, which gives us shades of color which are useful for winter effect, and as their berries are quite persistent and usually of a bluish-white shade, the contrast between stems and fruit is good. The red stems of *Rosa lucida* are also used to advantage.

In large shrub borders, along margins of ponds and edges of creeks, the brilliant osiers form an important part of the winter landscape. About the best are the golden-branched willow (*Salix vitellina* var. *aurea*), and the variety, *Britzensis*, with reddish branches. The basket willow (*Salix viminalis*) has also bright yellow stems and is especially valuable. The purple osier (*Salix purpurea*) gives us a chance to introduce a purple hue into the winter landscape, which in the distance is particularly enchanting. *Salix palmæfolia* has also purple branches and is very useful. As a purple branched shrub the purple-leaved barberry (*Berberis vulgaris purpurea*) is often used in small plantations.

For grey effects in stem and twig coloration, we can resort to the sea buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides*), and to one of the oleasters, (*Elæagnus argentea*). Effects in grey are sometimes very desirable in the winter landscape picture. For effects in green branches, we have the grass green stems of *Kerria Japonica*, the green stemmed variety of the red dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea viridissima*), and the golden bell (*Forsythia viridissima*).

We look to the coral berry (*Symphoricarpos vulgaris*) for a magenta shade. For soft brown shades we have ample opportunity to select from a long list, such as *Stephanandra flexuosa*, *Spiræa callosa*, the golden bell (*Forsythia suspensa*), the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus glandulosa*), *Crataegus crenata* and many others.

Many fail to notice the beautiful soft effects that can be obtained by mass planting of the brown-stemmed shrubs and trees, but it is particularly agreeable during the months of January and February to see a mass of brown stems as a relief from the blinding glare of the sun on the snow. It is then that we value the brown-stemmed shrubs along with the osiers and dog-woods.

In order to secure exceedingly good effects in stem coloration, it is well to remember that the highest color is produced in the growth of the current year, and in order to secure this growth we must not be afraid to prune heavily in the spring, so as not to destroy the effect in winter. This is particularly true of the willows, dogwoods and kerrias.

### STUDY THE WINTER EFFECT

All planting should be done to a definite purpose. If it is for a place that is to be occupied throughout the entire year, we should not fail to make ample provision for the effect which we can produce in the winter. If successfully planned, such a planting would be a work of art, which would not only appeal to every artistic eye, but would at the same time serve as an education to the people.

The efforts of many landscape gardeners in the past have been to plan for summer effects only, and we are often sated with the profusion of summer bloom. It is in the winter that we more fully appreciate what we get by way of color and tone.

Too often we see the home grounds arrayed with bundles of straw, burlap, and barnyard refuse, and graceful shrubs which are absolutely hardy and need no protection, tied up in an unspeakable manner, suggestive of the hair dressing of an African chief.

The effective arrangement of plants for winter effect can never be taught, as it is more difficult than the more or less stereotyped summer effects can possibly be, yet it is worthy of careful study and will repay every effort. Winter travel and constant observation will enable us to add to our storehouse of knowledge. The growing desire for out-of-doors exercise, especially in winter when indoor ventilation is so often neglected, cannot be too much emphasized, and if it can be stimulated by the creation of better winter gardens and by rendering more beautiful the great out-of-doors, in the winter season, the art of the landscape profession will have taken a long stride forward.

The best nursery stock should be free from insects, disease and blemish. It should be well grown, clean and straight.

\* The conclusion of Mr. McClure's article which appeared first in the February issue