

etc., they will be found just what is needed to stimulate and feed the crop. The ash is the mineral element of any vegetable structure, and therefore indispensable to its growth. The farmer who will sell his ashes, is actually parting with so much of the fertility of his farm. As an application to reclaim marsh land, the effect of ashes is often wonderful. The burnt lands in the Huron peninsula will have their productiveness greatly increased by the burning of the forests that covered them; and farmers there will receive great benefit in the future from the clearing of the lands and the depositing of the ashes from the burned forest upon them.—*Michigan Farmer.*

THE WAX PLANT.

(*Hoya carnosa.*)

Next to the English Ivy, I know of no climbing plant better adapted to culture in ordinary living rooms than the Hoya, or Wax Plant, as it is more popularly known. It grows rapidly, has fine foliage, blooms profusely, and has beautiful flowers, and is easily kept clean, because its thick, leathery leaves can be washed as well as so many pieces of china, with much less danger of breaking them, and its stems are very tough, so that there is but little danger of damaging them in taking down the plant and putting it up again whenever a bath is given it. If it is trained where it is convenient to get at the leaves, it will not be necessary to take it down in order to give it a washing. The only insect that has ever troubled my Hoya is the mealy bug, and I exterminated him by persevering warfare with a hair pin, ruthlessly dislodging the little pest as fast as he found a new location.

You will often see inquiries in papers to this effect: My Wax Plant is a year or two years old, and doesn't grow.

Can you tell me why? Perhaps Hoyas take to growing only when they become well rooted, and perhaps it takes most of them a year or two to get in that condition. I don't know how that is, but I know that I have owned three, and I have never had one make much growth before the second year. I have always raised my plants from cuttings, taken from half ripened wood. Each cutting generally has three or four leaves attached. These cuttings I have struck by inserting them in sand kept wet and warm. The roots will make their appearance in two or three weeks, and in a month or six weeks I pot the plants in a soil composed of one-third leaf-mold, one-third garden soil, and one-third turfy matter from under old sods, with a handful of sand added to each six-inch pot. Usually, the Hoya plant will put out a few new leaves, just enough to show you that it is alive, but I have never had my young plants send up any stems until the second year. When they do begin to grow, they grow very rapidly. My last plant began growing when it was about eighteen months old, and sent up eight stems which averaged eight feet in length in less than five months.

The stems will twine about a string or wire, and need but little training. Whatever support you give them must be quite stout, for a branch with a good many leaves on it is heavy.—*The American Garden.*

A THOUSAND CLUSTERS OF GRAPES FOR ONE DOLLAR.

On one of these vines we have just counted two hundred and forty-six bunches of grapes, nearly all fine ones, and the dwellers tell us, "a great many have already been picked and eaten." A whole row of hanging clusters still fringes the upper front of the piazza; the cross trellis is black with them, and