

## ARRANGING FLOWERS IN A BOUQUET.

WHERE the stems of flowers are short, or the object is to tie a flat or rounded hand bouquet, how is one to proceed in spreading the blooms? Let us watch the commercial florist tie up a nosegay. In the first place, if any flowers are too slender to be stiffly supported by their own stems, or the stems of which are very short, he supplies a wire to make up the deficiency of nature. Then he commences his bouquet by selecting a good bold flower, such as a rose, lily or camellia, for the centre, which he winds with a strong thread on to a thin stiff twig. Around this centre flower he then places a few leaves, and outside of these, to be an inch or two below the flower he binds sufficient moss, so that when a circle of flowers is added, they will not unduly crowd or overlap the first flower. It is usual to start with smaller individuals or trusses of flowers in this front line outward and place a few light sprays of bloom between them, to stand out boldly above the regular surface, next another ring of moss is bound on the centre stem, after which more green is applied and another circle of flowers and of projecting sprays. In this manner the bouquet is proceeded with until a suitable size is reached, when it may be finished by the addition of an edging of pleasing foliage, as smilax, fern, rose or camellia leaves.

In the making of a bouquet thus, the use of a variety of flowers is assumed. But the style now very much and very sensibly in vogue, is the use of but a single kind of flowers in a bouquet; it may be of roses, sweet peas, mignonette, violets, pansies, tulips, lilies, or other kinds. In this case the course to employ for preventing crowding is not dissimilar from that we quoted. But to avoid a stiff and monotonous appearance in the bouquet, pains must be taken to have some flowers stand out considerably beyond the others and yet not to be crowded, a matter easily effected by the use of plenty of moss back of the inner line of flowers, for keeping the arrangement open.—*Popular Gardening*.

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PLANTS AT REST.

MANY flowering and foliage plants used for decorating the grounds in summer, are kept during the winter in the cellar, or sometimes, with plants of low stature, in a pit. If there is a furnace in the cellar, that will unfit it for keeping plants; but a detached root cellar may be used. With plants in a completely dormant state, no light is needed, but with those plants that begin to grow in very early spring, unless they have some light, the foliage will become blanched. Plants at rest, while they require very little water, the soil must not get dust-dry. Soil in this condition will abstract moisture from the plants and ruin them. During the winter plants thus stored must be examined, and if the soil is "dust-dry," or "killing-dry," water sparingly.—*American Agriculturist for December*.