

quince trees, breaking the tender roots and leaving the soil harder than before, is a frequent cause of failure. Mulching and salt will keep the soil in just the right condition."

CULTURE OF THE TUBEROSE.

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As the time is upon us for starting in growth tuberose bulbs, for bloom in the holidays, it is thought a few hints, prompted by practical experience, may be acceptable to your readers. This flower, the *Polianthes Tuberosa*, of the botanists, may be, and is cultivated with passable success by being planted out with gladiolus, and other similar roots; but as it is susceptible of being forced so as to give from thirty to forty flowers, why should we content ourselves with half our bulbs blossoming, and they producing only half a dozen small flowers each?

To bring it to its highest condition, a few general principles are to be kept in view. First, the bulbs should be well grown and strong, having nursed but few offsets in their previous growth. Second, they should never feel a colder temperature than forty five degrees Fahrenheit (even in their quiet state), otherwise the bulbs are weakened, which will be shown by the blighting of the flower-buds. Third, (and this applies with more or less force to all vegetation), never allow them to make growth of foliage without having well-established roots. To this end, keep the bulbs, while in a quiet state, in a uniformly dry and warm atmosphere. Fourth, they are *gross feeders*, and being natives of a warm climate, can hardly be pushed too hard after they have begun their growth. This may be considered fundamentally essential to success.

The plan of culture given below I have adopted as best calculated to govern the supply of heat and food, but

it may be varied to suit other circumstances, keeping in view the foregoing general principles.

Divest the bulb of its scales, and with a knife remove all embryo bulbs. Follow this up, during the growth, by splitting them off as soon as they appear above ground. Prepare seven-inch pots by filling one-third with old cow manure gathered in the pasture, broken fine, or its equivalent, and fill up with good, rich compost of equal parts of loam, sand, and well-rotted manure, in which plunge the bulbs nearly to their tips. Of course a space is to be left for watering when growth has commenced. If a hot-bed or other bottom heat is at command, plunge the pots to the rim and cover the plants from the light, for by this, root growth is induced in advance of foliage, *thus securing strength*. Give only sufficient water to preserve moisture until foliage appears, then remove the shade and gradually increase the watering until the blossom stalk begins to spin up, when a full supply should be given. Liquid manure twice a week will not be too high feed for them. But little further care is necessary, except to divest them of offsets, as before directed, until the approach of cold nights, when they should be removed to the conservatory, or other warm quarters. By shading from the sunlight when in full bloom, they, like all other delicate flowers, may be prolonged in their season of beauty. Bloom may be expected in about four months from the time of potting, and such bloom as will well repay all extra care or trouble.

ABUTILON BOULE DE NEIGE is as yet the best white-flowering abutilon in cultivation. It is of dwarf, compact growth, and an abundant bloomer, thus rendering it one of the most desirable of the whole tribe for the decoration of the greenhouse or window garden.