

plants infested with aphids may even be dipped for a few seconds in the solution without any danger of injury to the plant.

Where raw tobacco leaves or leaf stems cannot be readily obtained, a good solution of tobacco can be made by unrolling two cigars and place them in a dish and pour a quart of boiling water on them, and treat as recommended for the raw leaf tobacco solution.

A quarter of a pound of quassia chips boiled for five or ten minutes in a gallon of rain water, allowed to cool, and when strained off the liquid can be used very effectively as an insecticide, and is less disagreeable to use than the tobacco solution. Soapy water made from common soap, free from chemicals, can be used for making either of the above solutions. The soapy water causes the solution to adhere more readily to the foliage, thus increasing its effectiveness. The plants should afterwards be syringed with clear water as before recommended.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS. The early flowering varieties will soon be in bloom. If large blooms are required, some of the smaller late buds should be pinched off. This disbudding process means fewer flowers, but flowers of very much better quality both in size and color than if the buds are left crowded thickly together. Disbudding should be commenced as soon as the buds are large enough to be pinched off easily with the thumb and finger. The flowers of chrysanthemums will be improved if the plants are given a little liquid fertilizer once or twice a week whilst the buds are swelling. The plants should be lifted indoors on cold nights, as two or three degrees of frost will injure the bloom.

The black aphid or black fly is often very troublesome to chrysanthemums, and are very hard to get rid of when once they obtain a hold on the plants. I have found

that by dissolving about an ounce of whale oil soap in one gallon of the tobacco solution before mentioned, these pests can be better kept under control. Dipping the infested tips of growth in this solution is the best method of using it. Soapy water made from ordinary common soap, mixed with the tobacco solution, will answer nearly as well as whale oil soap.

BULB CULTURE. October is the best month for planting spring flowering bulbs in the garden, as well as for putting varieties for flowering in the window or conservatory during winter. Roman hyacinths and almost all varieties of the narcissi, as well as Dutch hyacinths, succeed splendidly under pot culture. The Roman hyacinths and narcissi can be planted three bulbs in a four or five-inch pot in fairly rich loamy soil. The tips of the bulbs should be just under the surface of the soil after they are potted. Dutch hyacinths should be planted either singly in a four or five-inch pot, or three in a six-inch pot. After potting, the soil should be thoroughly watered, and the pots either buried two or three inches deep in coal ashes or light sandy soil in a cold frame out of doors, or treated the same way in a cool cellar, where they can remain for at least three or four weeks, when they can be taken into the window or greenhouse as required. If left outside during severe weather they should have a covering of straw or strawy manure or some similar material, so that the pots can be got at easily during severe weather. The principal point to be considered in the successful pot culture of bulbs is to keep the bulbs dark, moist and cool until they have well rooted in the soil. Water is seldom required after the first watering until the pots are uncovered and taken indoors, when they will require to be kept quite moist (but not soddened) at the roots, until they have done flowering.