

than it could properly absorb, and prices show weakness with a further decline in sight. It is estimated that four-fifths of the crop on the vines at the time of the frost were destroyed as far as use for table purposes is concerned; but they are being shipped forward for wine grapes, and the growers will probably do equally as well as though they had been shipped for table grapes. This applies to the black and white varieties only. Catawba were almost a complete loss in the frosted district, as the berries had not ripened

sufficiently to make wine, and were so badly frozen as to cause them to drop from the vines. Table grapes are not so plentiful, though in sufficient supply to meet the demand. Many of the larger concerns are holding their stocks of table grapes for later markets. The warm weather has been unfavorable for the keeping of grapes, being especially hard on those in transit or in cars waiting to be unloaded, and we advise lighter shipments for a while, as the only remedy against a glutted market and lower prices.

### THE SCILLA SIBERICA.



FIG. 1694.—SCILLA SIBERICA.

THE *Scilla siberica* is one of the loveliest of the small flowered bulbs. Its blossoms are of the purest blue, of the most exquisite shade you can imagine. They grow on slender stems and are frail and delicate in appearance.

One fall I put a lot of these little bulbs out of doors, and early in the spring they began blooming, the tiny bulbs seemed rather to outdo themselves in sending up flower stalks and the dainty, delicate blossoms were very fair to look upon.

It will pay any flower lover to invest in a few (or a good many) of these bulbs; they cost but a trifle and they make an ideal border for a bulb bed anywhere. They are much finer if set in rows of half a dozen wide or even more. The bulbs may be set closely and should not be covered too deeply. Set them perhaps three inches apart and as many inches under cover. Mulch the bed after setting, or before cold weather comes on too severely. Still they are hardy, perfectly so, but a little protection given even to the hardiest bulb, will make itself shown in the size and quality of the flowers.

The *scilla* makes a pretty bulb for forcing, as it blooms so early it may easily be had in blossom for the winter holidays. A dozen or more of the little bulbs may be set in a six inch pot. After setting, put away in the dark to root, for some six weeks, then bring to the light and you will soon be rewarded by the shooting up of slender green stalks and the blossom stem almost at the same time. They continue in bloom for quite a length of time, and while they cannot compare with some other bulbs for size, their dainty exquisiteness may, to some, make up for such lack.—*Vick's Monthly*.