

so that, after the purchase of stock in the first instance, no further outlay is required, excepting where the cultivator is anxious to add new varieties to his list. The collection here comprises examples of all the best kinds of out-door work, and when the flower garden is at its best, no arguments from me are wanted to convince those who see it that in the tulip the flower gardener has a most valuable aid. To describe the magnificence of the display which tulips, when properly arranged with respect to the heights and colors, are capable of producing, is impossible, and I will not attempt it.

We have adopted a plan somewhat different to that pursued in many gardens, and instead of planting the bulbs thickly in beds by themselves, we first plant the beds with such things as white arabis, yellow alspum, blue forget-me-nots, etc., and then plant the bulbs between the other things, at a distance of nine or ten inches apart. Each bed is filled with one color, or, at the most, two colors; and beds filled with plants producing yellow flowers are filled with scarlet flowered tulips; with white flowers, rose and pink tulips; blue flowering plants, white tulips, and so on; and the effect produced is at once most effective and pleasing. The advantage of employing them with other classes of plants are many, and so obvious that it does not need any lengthened explanation. In the first place, the beds have a more cheerful aspect throughout the Winter, when the surface is carpeted with green foliage; secondly, the foliage of the carpeting plants affords a very efficient protection from the cold winds just as the young leaves are peeping above the surface of the soil; and thirdly, the brilliancy of the flowers is brought to better advantage by the groundwork of white, yellow, pink, and crimson, in much the same manner as the appearance of precious stones is increased by their golden settings. The carpet serves a forth purpose, for it not only keeps the beds gay until the time for filling them with Summer bedders, but it keeps the old flower stems out of sight, and the bulbs are able to complete their growth without being an eye-sore to any one.—*Gardeners' Magazine*

WINDOW GARDENING AND HOUSE PLANTS.

Plants which last a considerable time in bloom, and which, when out of bloom, form pretty objects, are not very numerous, and a little care in their selection may be useful. The most ephemeral plants if bought before they are fully bloomed will last some time before the unbloomed flowers are developed, and therefore no one ought to be captivated by a plant in full flower, as it will soon lose its attractions. Geraniums are general favorites. If one flower has opened, so that the character can be seen, no more need be wished for at the time of buying, for it is better to have all the blossoms open with the purchaser, than for him to pick out a full blossomed plant which will soon fall into the "sere and yellow leaf." But there are many plants better than geraniums for window gardens. Mignonette lasts a considerable time, but it is not grown for its beauty, but its fragrance. The Fuchsia ought to continue in bloom for a long time, but it requires the greatest care in purchasing, and managing after it is purchased. If it comes out of a warm house, the change of temperature will throw off every bloom. The same thing will happen if the plant receives too much water, or is allowed to

stand in a wet saucer. Too much wet is the bane of house plants.

The Cineraria is a prolific bloomer, and if it can be procured when the first flowers are beginning to open, it will bloom for several weeks. Cockscorns are lasting flowers, and when properly dwarfed, make ornamental window plants, but they are considered too common for choice collections. China and other pot roses seldom bloom well in close cities, and generally fade soon after being obtained from the greenhouse. Evergreens form excellent ornaments for the balconies of houses in winter, but purchasers of suitable plants for this purpose, generally find that they do not stand the Winter well. The fact is, that those brought to market are merely taken out of the ground and put into pots, the only care of the sellers being to have them look well until they are sold. Evergreens intended to live, must be established in pots; and when this is the case, they may be grown for years in large pots or boxes in city balconies, provided hardy sorts are selected and watering and adding fresh mold is properly attended to. The shifting into larger pots or boxes must be regulated by the growth of the plants. The Dwarf Box when taken care of, makes one of the best evergreens for balconies and it has the merit of being easily grown, but is liable to damage from severe frost. There is a variegated variety which is very ornamental.

The best way of managing window and balcony plants is to keep them, upon the whole, rather dry than otherwise; never to let them flag, but never to let them be soddened with water. A small syringe to wash dust and insects off the leaves will be useful. The watering should always be done with rain water, if it is available; if not, soft water of some kind should be used. Cold, hard water deteriorates plants rapidly. Whether it is the cold, or the absence of that peculiar nourishment which is supplied by soft water, has not been ascertained, but the evil effect to such, of the cold bath is well known. In selecting plants it is always better to go to the nurseries than to the markets; for in the former the plants may be seen in the places where they were grown, and there is a large number to choose from. There the buyer will have a chance to select those which are coming into flower and to reject those which have arrived at perfection.—*Western Rural*.

WILD STRAWBERRY.

Mr. J. J. Van Kirk, of Ramsayburg, N. J., has a fine strawberry bed which he says has yielded abundantly the last two Summers, all from a few wild plants that grow on uncultivated ground. Four years ago he planted them in the garden, and by a little attention and transplanting both old and new plants both Spring and Fall, he had them in fine bearing condition in two years from setting. The past season, and the one previous also, the first picking averaged in size 2 1-2 inches in circumference, while there were berries that were much larger. They were pronounced of excellent flavor.

Upon this hint it would be well for others to act; for who that has tasted the rich, sweet flavor of the strawberry as the fruit grew in its natural state in the early history of Northwestern civilization, can fail to mark the striking contrast between it