

sible. Too great heat forces a weak growth, and has a tendency to blast any buds that may form.

In a room where the air is warm and dry the red spider will do deadly work. In order to keep him at bay the plants must be given as much moisture as possible. Keep a vessel of water on the stove, to evaporate. Shower the plants daily. If the pots are used without saucers, the table on which they stand, or the shelves, can be covered with an inch of sand which can be kept in place by tacking cleats along the edge of the stand. The sand will take up and retain the water which runs through the pots, and thus a steady moisture will be given off from it, for there will be constant evaporation taking place. Keep the air of the room in which the plants are kept as moist as possible, if you want to grow strong, healthy plants.

Showering daily helps to keep the foliage clean, and unless the dust, which settles on the plants when sweeping the room, is cleared away, the pores of the leaves become clogged and the plant finds it difficult to breathe, for the pores of the leaves are really the lungs of the plant.

In a moist atmosphere many plants can be grown which would die in a dry air, and all plants do so much better where there is plenty of moisture in suspension that the amateur who wants his plants to do their best will aim to supply it. It has often been observed that fine plants are frequently found growing in the kitchen, while those in the parlor are sickly. The explanation of this is: The kitchen air is moist because of the cooking, washing and other work of that kind going on there, while the parlor air has all the moisture extracted from it by intense stove and furnace heat which there is no moisture to modify.

Stir the soil in the pots at least once a

week. An old fork is a good tool to do this with. This allows the air to penetrate to the roots, and keeps weeds from getting a start. Keep all dead leaves picked off and remove fading flowers. It is a good plan to cover your plants with a thin sheet, or a newspaper, when sweeping. Another good plan is to remove them to the kitchen at least once in two weeks, and give them a thorough washing. This helps to keep down insects and prevents them from becoming incrustated with dust.

Provide yourself with one of the brass syringes or elastic plant sprinklers for sale by dealers in florists' goods. With one of these you can throw a strong stream or a spray of water over and among your plants, and apply it effectively, which you cannot do if you depend on a wisk-broom for a sprinkler. A "sprinkler" is not what you need, but something that has force enough to take the water in all directions and in such quantities with such volume as the case may require.

Turn your plants at least twice a week so that they will get the sun and light on all sides. This prevents their becoming drawn to one side, as they will be sure to do if not turned frequently. Do not neglect to do this if you want good-shaped specimens. Be sure to give all the light possible; don't shut it out from the window by curtains. Let your plants furnish the beauty for the window. Some are afraid of letting in the sunshine upon their plants because it will fade the carpet. If you care more for your carpet than you do for your flowers, give them to someone who is willing to do the fair thing by them, and concentrate your energies on the protection of the precious carpet, but don't attempt to compromise matters between the two, for this will result in failure so far as the plants are concerned.—*Exchange.*