

except one plant that was hidden in a sheltered spot where the frost did not strike. I did want to get even one bloom from those carnations, so when I found this one plant I potted it carefully, and with a good many misgivings as to the result, gave it a place in a sunny south window of our living-room. The potting of it stopped any growth until about November, when new leaves and shoots began to appear, and by Christmas time it was literally loaded with buds in various stages of growth. From that time till it was again put in the garden it was indeed "a thing of beauty and a joy forever," for its perfume filled the house with fragrance, and the beautiful sea-shell pink blossoms were the admiration to all who saw them. Now I have them in bloom almost the year around, for the old plants bloom well for some time after being planted out, and I always try to have new ones started early enough to take their place when the old plants are through blooming.

With regard to other house plants, at this season of the year a well-regulated plant ought to be well over the case of sulks that it contracted when moved into the window garden in the fall.

With increasing length of days comes renewed activity of growth and the majority of palms, geraniums, etc., should now receive extra attention. I make a practice to give my growing and blossoming plants all the water they require. My rule is to saturate the soil thoroughly when I water them, and then wait till dryness is apparent before watering again.

Moisture in the air is always desirable. The plants should be showered frequently and moisture in the air provided by having a pan of water set on the register or stove. In the kitchen the tea-kettle will keep the air in good condition. I always shower the plants and clear up the windows the day I sweep. I put the plants in the sink, and give them a thorough washing with water not quite cold. I remove every particle of dust and always add a little more water than I think is enough. In this way one is sure to be thorough. The only exceptions I make is with the primroses and rex begonia, as they should not be subjected to such vigorous treatment.

It has always been a theory of mine, which I have proved by practice, that insect enemies can be kept from plants

by beginning at the beginning and not allowing them to gain a foothold. Go over each plant once a week, or as often as you find it necessary, and remove every scale and mealy bug, using a small blunt instrument like a pen. Thus if none are allowed to stay on a plant they cannot multiply and force you to insecticides, syringes, etc. Of course, if one keeps a lot of plants this advice is not practical.

Red spiders cannot flourish where the air is moist, and since these little pests are among the worst that the flower-grower has to contend with, a plentiful supply of moisture should be provided. Not only should the air be kept moist, but in order to swamp the enemy the foliage should also be drenched. A high temperature and a dry atmosphere are conditions most enjoyed by the red spider.

All plants that have weathered the first two months of the year without being nipped by the frost will be putting forth their best efforts through March and April, and should be getting lots of fresh air, for fresh air is quite as essential to plants as to people. Before allowing it to strike the plants it should be gradually mixed with the

warm air of the room. Keep dead and dying leaves and withered blossoms carefully removed from the plants, as the plants may be made attractive even without blossoms if kept neat and tidy. Stir the soil around the plants occasionally with a table fork. Stick a number of sulphur matches, head down into the edge of the flower pots to destroy the white worms so often found around the roots of plants. N.

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