

## WINTERING GERANIUMS.

A correspondent wishes to know the best way to keep geraniums in a cellar during winter. The treatment must vary according to the condition of the cellar. The practice which is frequently recommended, of hanging the plants up by the roots, exposed to the air, can succeed only in a cellar uniformly cool and but few degrees above the freezing point; and the degree of moisture in the air must be just such as to retain the natural amount in the plants, without being so dry as to shrivel them on one hand or so moist as to cause decay. The plants must be kept as nearly in a dormant state as possible by maintaining a low temperature. There are but few cellars which possess all these requisites, and this treatment is not likely to succeed in most cases.

We have adopted the following mode, which requires little care and answers well. A rather large and well lighted window is double glazed, and a stand is provided on which the plants are placed so as to receive plenty of light. When they are taken up in autumn, nearly all the tops are pruned off, but enough is left for the base of a compact form, with a small portion of the young foliage, say about one-tenth or one-twentieth of the leaves of each plant. They are then planted in moss, in a shallow box, placing the box in an inclined position or with a slope of about forty-five degrees, putting a layer of moss on the lower side, then a row of the trimmed plants and another layer of moss and row of plants till the box is filled. It is then placed in its position on the stand in front of the window. The moss may be kept sufficiently moist by showering it with a watering-pot once a month or a fortnight, as it may require, a warm and dry cellar needing more frequent watering than a damp

or cool one. In a warm cellar the plants will make some growth during winter, and as the leaves increase in number they will consume more moisture than at first. If the cellar is quite cool they will remain nearly dormant, and the slight moisture from the moss will preserve them from drying up. Moss is much better than damp sawdust, which in its turn is better than soil. In moss, there is no danger of their becoming water-soaked after watering, the natural supply being given off partly in the form of vapor.

The most convenient size for the boxes is about two feet square and six or eight inches deep, but they may be larger or smaller. An early growth is made the next spring by putting them in a hot-bed for a few weeks before planting in open ground. A small portion of a hot-bed will hold a large number placed compactly together.

It is now too late to adopt this treatment, except for plants which have been already placed in cellar for wintering by a more imperfect mode.—*Country Gentleman*.

## THE DEACON LETTUCE.

Mr. Joseph Harris writes to the *American Garden* concerning this Lettuce as follows:—

I have just been to see Mrs. Müller. I found her and her daughter digging Potatoes. I told her that the New York Experiment Station had tried her Lettuce, and out of 150 varieties with 700 different names, her Lettuce proved to be the best, and I wanted her to tell me all about it.

*Ques.*—How long have you grown it?

*Ans.*—Over forty years. I am an old woman, I shall soon be seventy. I want to make a good deal of money out of this Lettuce, but I cannot get about as I used to.

*Ques.*—Where did you get it from?