

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

The Plumbagos mentioned make very satisfactory house plants when properly handled. As the flowers are always produced on the new growth, the plants should be cut back every two or three months to induce the formation of new growths.

Cocos Weddeliana.

1008. Would this palm make a desirable centre piece for the dining-room table? To what height does it grow?

Cocos Weddeliana is one of the handsomest and most desirable palms for table decoration. It may attain a height of four or five feet, although we seldom see specimens over two or three feet.

Kentia Belmoreana.

1009. Is this a good palm for general house culture? Would be a suitable one for a society collection?

Kentia Belmoreana is an excellent palm for general house culture, and would do honor to any collection.

Palms From Seed.

1010.—Can palms be grown from seed? Are the Kentias the best class to grow?

Palms are grown from seed, but they are slow to germinate and require a higher temperature than the amateur would likely be able to give them. On this account I am inclined to think the majority of amateurs would likely lose interest in them before the plants amounted to much. The Date Palms, however, may be easily grown from the seeds of the dates of commerce.

The Kentias are among the best palms for general culture. Other desirable ones are *Areca lutescens*, *Cocos Weddeliana*, *Latania Borbonica*, *Phoenix*, and *Seaforthia elegans*.

* Open Letters. *

Mr. Forbes' Garden, Orillia.

SIR,—Mr. Blackstone of The Times, I understand, has sent you the cut you asked me for. Reading last summer in the Magazine, your request for photographs, I had laid aside three, intending to send them to you, but in the mean time Mr. Blackstone asked me for one of my house. I gave him the three intended for you, on looking for others to replace them, I could only find the two I sent you, the third might perhaps have been suitable for a vignette, cedar hedge and trees. The house is very much hidden by the trees. You will notice a little to the right, a Weeping Elm. I planted a pair in 1882, but one of them grew too much upwards and spreading, so I cut it down, since the photo was taken.

My taste inclines rather to Nature than art, consequently I have cultivated trees and lawn more than flower beds, not having room for both; maple, spruce, cedar, Cut-leafed Horse chestnuts, maple, Cut-leafed Birch, Mountain Ash, I tried the Kilmarnock Willow but they died. I have quite a number of shrubs which came from you, but unfortunately did not keep note of their names. I have also a fine white grape vine which I got from you about fifteen years ago.

W. J. FORBES.

Orillia, Feb. 15th, 1898.

Foliage for Bouquets.

SIR,—I noticed in the February number of your journal, you have an article entitled "Foliage For Bouquets." No doubt there are hundreds who are continually worrying themselves almost to death over this vexed question. I, myself, for a long time was bothered as to what would look well in a bouquet of flowers. I think I solved this problem, however, and for the last two seasons I planted a five cent package of *Cosmos* each spring. This is ornamental as well as useful, furnishing us not only with an abundance of the most beautiful green foliage, but it also gives us very beautiful dahlia-like flowers (single) for the bouquet. If any is desirous of a beautiful foliage there is nothing easier to grow, and nothing cheaper, or more beautiful than *cosmos*. I trust that any reader who really want something pretty in this line will get a 5 cent package of the mixed which grows very readily, and I am sure that they will not be sorry for having done so.

There is another plant which can be very easily raised from seed and which is also very ornamental and will furnish us with bushels of beautiful foliage for bouquets. I refer to *eschscholtzia*. This can also be bought for 5 cents a package and is simply grand to mix in with flowers.

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