

noted, as my purpose is to direct attention to shrubs that will live and thrive in all parts of our interior prairies.

#### CHINESE PRIMROSES.

For a neat flowering plant in the window, there is nothing which will repay so well for the space occupied as one or two of the Chinese Primroses. They are natives of China, and are not adapted to out-door culture. They bloom freely under glass, but unlike the other classes of primroses, require sun, and if properly managed, flower all the year round, although their most flourishing season is through the winter and early spring. All that is necessary for their cultivation is a moderately warm situation, close to the glass, medium moisture, and good drainage, which is secured by filling in the bottom of the crocks with pieces of broken crockery. It is not well to sprinkle the plants with water, as the leaves and flowers will be speckled easily and soon decay. The leaves and flower stalks seldom grow higher than about six inches, and if the plant grows top-heavy, it should be supported by a few little sticks placed near the collar of it. As the plants do not flower so well after the first year, it is therefore advisable to procure young plants every year, or to raise them from seed. This, however, is not easy; the seeds being very fine, if carelessly watered, or allowed to dry out, they will be lost.

In sowing the seed, care must be taken to cover them lightly with the soil, or what is better, not to cover them at all, but to press them gently into the surface of the soil with a smooth piece of wood. The watering should be done by saucers placed underneath the pots, or by very fine sprinklers, so as not to wash the soil; but even after the young plants have developed two or three leaves, they require careful watering; if the soil is permitted to get

dry, the very tender roots may be dried up in a few hours. Our way of treating the seed is this: We water the lower body of earth in the pot by a saucer, and cover the surface from time to time with a wet cloth, so as to leave the seeds undisturbed.

Of the Chinese Primroses, we have now some most beautiful varieties, double and single; the double white is certainly a beautiful plant, although it does not bloom so continuously as the other. The fringed flowers are considered the very best. — *California Horticulturist*.

#### THE APPLE CROP OF 1884.

*Gardening Illustrated*, an English horticultural publication, thus speaks of the apple crop:—Messrs. J. W. Draper and Son, Covent Gardens, have kindly furnished us with the following particulars respecting the present appearance of the Apple crop in Europe and America: *United Kingdom*—Crop much below the average. *France*—An average yield of early kinds, especially in the Gironde; late and better descriptions somewhat short. *Germany*—Short crop generally. *Belgium*—Short crop. *Holland*—very light crop. *Spain and Portugal*—Crop short, description common. *America*—There are indications that the crop will not equal in bulk that of 1880, yet the yield in some of the best producing localities is likely to be very abundant, and superior in quality to the past two seasons. After mature consideration of the various reports there is little doubt that the crop of Europe is considerably under that of many years; thus it will be from America that the supply for the United Kingdom will be derived. The prospect of shipments being advantageously made to England were never more promising, particularly for better and later description of Apples.