

For amateur growers, the most economical way is to purchase a few dozen plants from a florist each spring; such plants are to be had, usually, at a low cost. Small young plants turned out of the pots into the flower border in May or June, soon make fine plants, two or three feet in diameter, and continue to bloom long after frost has set in. For the benefit of beginners and those unacquainted with their culture, I will describe the mode which has given me the most favorable result. I endeavour, if possible, not to plant in soil where they have been grown the year previous. If the soil is not naturally rich, I manure with well rotted manure, mixing thoroughly with the soil, and planting young, thrifty plants as soon as the danger of frost is past. Plant them about three feet apart, and keep the soil loose and free from weeds. They soon occupy the ground, and afford a fine show of bloom. About the first of September, I cut back such plants as are wanted for propagating, manuring and loosening the soil thoroughly around them; this will cause them to make a new and vigorous growth. Pinch off the blossoms as they appear. Each plant will, by the middle of October afford a fine lot of young cuttings for propagation. These cuttings, I endeavour to have rooted and footed off in two inch pots by the first of November, using a clayed loam, prepared by taking the top sods from a pasture and composting, having them rotted and mixed with well rotted manure; I pinch the cuttings back occasionally, to make them stocky, and give attention to airing, keeping the temperature during the winter at from 40° to 50° at night, and not above 60° in the day time; fumigating not less than twice a week with attention to watering, such plants will afford from twenty to thirty fine cuttings, each for spring propagating. If the old plants are wanted for spring sales they would be benefited by shaking or washing the soil from their roots and repotting in fresh soil, as described above, placing them in a hotted or green-house, with a little bottom heat, airing them on warm days, which will cause them to make a new and vigorous growth, and bloom more profusely than if left in the soil they were grown in during the winter.

Ex. Cor.

WINDOW GARDENING IN WINTER.

The following practical suggestions from an article in the *Country Gentleman*, will be found to be timely and useful by such of our fair readers as have the good sense and excellent taste to grow house plants:

"We own seventy five pots of house plants, and flatter ourselves that we know a little about the treatment they require. There are some few plants which will grow and blossom with but little care or

attention—but with others constant care is needful. Among the former class, the Chinese Primrose takes front rank. It will continue in bloom from nine to ten months out of the twelve; and its pure white or rich pink and crimson flowers are a great ornament. So tenacious of life and health is the root, that if planted in cotton wool soaked with water and not allowed to wither for want of moisture, it will put forth its tender blossoms for months. It can be thus planted in a china vase or saucer, or in a glass dish, making a lovely ornament for a parlor or boudoir table. The cost of it is small; twenty-five cents will procure a fine plant, and its flowers are a certainty.

The Czar Violet blossoms all winter, and perfumes the air with its wondrous fragrance. The flower is single, its colour a light blue, but its sweetness is unsurpassed by its sister flowers.

The Double English Violets are of a deep, rich purplish blue, and will bloom for several weeks in a shady situation.

Bouvardias adorn a window garden for many months with a quick succession of buds and flowers of a rich coral hue. Bouvardia elegans, a new variety, possesses larger flowers, of a trumpet shape, and ripe red hue. Ours is just bursting into bloom, and is very beautiful.

The Begonias are also very desirable, as they push forth clusters of waxen details during all the gloomy winter season. Their glossy foliage is handsome, and they are rarely troubled with the pest of insects, which are so pernicious to all window culture of plants.

Belgium Daisies are very pretty dwarf plants, and additions to every collection.

The different variety of Cyclamens are particularly beautiful. The winged flowers hover like birds over the dark rich foliage of the plant.

All the above named plants will rarely fail to produce a good supply of flowers without much coaxing, and if we add a few of the variegated foliaged plants—some sweet geraniums and several varieties of the Zonale tribe—they will form a very respectable window garden, and not only give great satisfaction to their owner, but attract the lingering gaze of every passer-by, and give pleasant thoughts to a large number of people.

Flowers blooming in windows are far more attractive than either gorgeous upholstery or filmy lace. They possess a charm that cannot be estimated with the productions of man's hand.

The greatest difficulty which the amateur cultivator experiences in making her pets blossom, is in the dryness of the atmosphere. A moist air cannot be procured without a conservatory or greenhouse, and the leaves cannot be sprinkled daily, on account of spotting the windows, but we can sponge them over with a damp cloth or sponge. The leaves are the lungs of a plant; if they are not kept clear of dust, and the breathing pores well open, the plant dies of suffocation. Without a large amount of air light and perfect cleanliness our plants will not flourish but must wither away and die. Excepting in the coldest weather, fresh air must be given them every day, not letting it blow directly upon them, but by opening either windows or doors so that fresh, pure air can be freely admitted for at least half an hour. The best time to do this is in the warmest part of the day from 12 to 2 p. m. While