

WATERING HOUSE PLANTS.

I AM satisfied that not one person in twenty is aware that too much water is more dangerous to the plants than too little. Some gardeners seem to have the idea that to take a watering pot in hand to supply the needs of plants is an easy duty, and that to give a dash here and to soak the soil there is all there is to the matter. One thing is to be observed: All plants under all circumstances, nor, indeed, the same plants under different circumstances require the same amount of water. It is necessary, therefore to study the nature and habits of kinds so that each may be treated according to its needs. A vigorous blooming plant, say a fuchsia or ger-

anium, might be said to represent the maximum need of water; the same when in a state of rest, in cool, damp weather, the minimum requirement as to this. Therefore to give exactly the same quantity of water in both conditions named, would be to cause harm by not giving enough water to some and too much to others. One safe rule is to wait until the ball of earth begins to get rather dry, and then to give enough water to moisten the soil through and through. Then do not water again until the former state of dryness is reached, be that time six hours or six days.—*Vick's Magazine*.

LOBELIA CARDINALIS.

THE LOBELIA CARDINALIS, or Cardinal Flower, is the most showy of our native plants. Its rich, cardinal-red shade is extremely rare in flowers; in fact, we can recall no other wild flower of the same gorgeous hue. Though growing naturally in rather wet spots, it takes kindly to cultivation and will grow and blossom very satisfactorily in almost any location, particularly if it is where a dash of water can be given it once in a while. It begins to blossom in July, and the long spikes of brilliant flowers will continue opening to the very tip, lasting until the latter part of August.

Numerous side shoots spring out from the main stalk and lengthen the time of flowering, and these little sprays mixed with some fern fronds are lovely for table decoration.

The plant can be raised successfully from seed, but will not bloom until the second year. With us, while not common, it is sufficiently plenty that roots can always be obtained if you know where to go for them. I have found that after the seeds have ripened the flower stalk withers and in the fall a new growth starts, forming a little green rosette of leaves, and this is the best time for transplanting.

This summer I found a plant with pure pink blossoms growing in the midst of hundreds of the typical colored flowers. I thought it a rare find, as I had never seen or heard of any such before. Later I found that one of the same color was growing in a bed of seedlings at Highland Park.—*Vick's Magazine*.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE IN GEORGIA.—A press dispatch from Atlanta, dated Dec. 30th, says: Thirty thousand fruit trees, comprising the entire orchards of D. C. and G. W. Bacon, in Mitchell County, will be burned by order of State Entomologist Scott, owing to the ravages of San Jose Scale.

In the immediate neighborhood of Dewitt, in the counties of Inerwein, Berrien, Worth and Mitchell, are more than 300,000 bearing peach trees, and in justice to the owners of neighboring orchards, as well as to perform a service for the state, the trees will be destroyed. The work will require several week's time.