

made to last longer than iron in the ground, but thought the process so simple that it was not well to make a stir about it. I would as soon have poplar or basswood posts. I have taken out basswood posts after having been set seven years that were as sound when taken out as when first put in the ground. Time and weather seemed to have no effect upon them. The posts can be prepared for less than two cents apiece. This is the recipe: Take boiled linseed oil and stir in pulverized charcoal to the consistency of paint. Put a coat of this over the timber, and there is not a man that will live to see it rot.

### WATERING HOUSE PLANTS.

Nine-tenths of the failures in window gardening can be attributed to improper watering, either too much or too little—in most cases, too much. You cannot water a plant by rule of thumb. We frequently hear, "I cannot understand how it is that my window plants do not grow better, for I water them every day." This is probably the very cause of their not doing well.

Whenever you water a plant, always give sufficient to soak the whole mass of soil thoroughly; then do not water again before it shows signs of dryness on the surface. It may not be for two or three days, or even longer; but no matter, do not give water until you are sure of its being in a *slightly dry* condition. On the other hand, some plants require water twice a day, especially when the pots are full of roots and the plants are growing vigorously and flowering profusely. The leaves of plants must be kept clean and free from dust; those with bright, shining surface and of good size may be wiped clean with a sponge or soft cloth. Varieties with smaller leaves can only be cleaned by being showered overhead either with a sprinkler or syringe, and this should be done once or twice a week.

Do not allow plants to stand in water except such as are aquatics. If the water touches the bottom of the pots, a good plan is to have a smaller saucer, turned upside down for the plant to stand on, within the larger one; or small blocks of hard wood, or any material that will hold the bottom of the pot above the water-line; otherwise remember to always empty the water that drains into the saucers.

### THE POETRY OF A ROOT CROP.

Underneath their elder-robe  
Russet, swede, and golden globe,  
Feathered carrot burrowing deep,  
Steadfast wait in charmed sleep;  
Treasure-houses wherein lie,  
Locked in angels' alchemy,  
Milk and hair, and blood, and bone,  
Childre.. of the barren stone;  
Children of the flaming Air,  
With his blue knee and bare,  
Spirit-peopled, smiling down  
On frozen field and boiling town—  
Frozen fields that surpliced lie,  
Gazing patient at the sky;  
Like some marble carven nun—  
With folded hands when work is done,  
Who mute upon her tomb doth pray,  
Till the resurrection day.

[Charles Kingsley in Macmillan's Magazine.

### SWEET PEAS.

Among out-door climbing plants, the sweet pea takes a prominent place as a general favorite among lovers of flowers; and surely it should be a favorite, for but few garden plants are hardier, and none sweeter or more beautiful than this enterprising climber. If planted early in Spring, even though the weather be not fair, the seeds soon germinate and send up a vigorous growth, which is not diminished until cold weather and frost come on. As the Sweet Pea continues in bloom all summer, and makes a very heavy growth, it forms a very good screen far unsightly objects, or it may be made to act as a protection for tender plants. It grows to a height of six feet, and may therefore prove a very ornamental covering for a trellis-work or rough fences.

There is quite a variety of colors of sweet peas,—white, rose, red, crimson, purple, black, striped, etc. The seeds should be planted three or four inches deep, early in the spring. The plants should be grown about an inch apart, and support should be furnished early. Either trellis, lattice or bush makes an admirable support.

The varieties of sweet peas are numerous. Butterfly is a very beautiful one, having a pure white ground, delicately laced with lavender blue; it is exceedingly fragrant, and is desirable for bouquets. Scarlet Invincible is remarkably fragrant, and produces a great number of crimson flowers. Almost all of the varieties will be found to be very beautiful and attractive, and a great addition to the flower garden.—Garden.