

Winter Flowering Bulbs.

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At this season of the year such a subject as winter flowering bulbs ought to be interesting to all lovers of flowers, and especially when our winters are so long and our summers so short, there is no other country where "winter flowering bulbs" should be more highly prized. We are not able to have a plentiful supply of flowers from out doors for a longer period than about three months; the rest of the year, therefore, depends upon indoor culture of plants and bulbs, if we would have a continuous display of flowers all the year round.

Bulbs, now, are a very important feature in horticulture, and especially the winter flowering ones. Much might here be said about Bulbs,—what really constitutes a Bulb, the different formations of different kinds of Bulbs, what really is a Bulb, and what is not a Bulb, and so on. But my intention to-night is to speak about Bulbs in general,—that is, Bulbs as they are commonly understood by every one.

One of the principal elements of success in the growing of plants and Bulbs is proper soil. Many people have an idea that garden soil is good enough for potting work, but it is a great mistake. No matter how much care and attention is given afterwards, if the soil is not right, the best results cannot be attained. A mixture suitable for Bulbs can be made as follows: Take three parts of old sod, which has been heaped up for at least six months. In that time it will have become thoroughly rotted, and the fibres will all be dead. Mix with this about one-eighth of leaf mould or well decomposed manure, and one eighth of good sharp sand. This, chopped up fine and thoroughly mixed together, will make a good compost, which will be suitable for almost all kinds of winter flowering Bulbs; so much so that if the Bulbs did not thrive well and give good satisfaction after being