

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

Growing Chrysanthemums.

1094. SIR,—Would you please give me some hints for growing chrysanthemums.

If our correspondent will turn up our report for 1897 he will find an excellent article by Prof. Hutt, on this subject. The following brief hints are given by a Canadian florist:—

During the past decade, the chrysanthemum has been and still is the most popular of all fall blooming plants, and is properly called "Queen of Autumn." Coming into bloom as soon as the dahlia is over, its flowers last throughout November and early December, if the plant is properly protected from freezing. The culture is very simple, as they grow freely in any rich, well-drained soil, whether of a clayey or sandy nature. Young plants should be secured in May or June and planted if possible, on the east or south side of a fence or building, that they may easily be protected from cold, freezing winds in autumn. The plants should be cut back early in July, and again each two or three weeks afterward, until early in August, when the shoots should be allowed to grow. By this time each plant should present a well branched and stocky appearance. The plants must of course, receive thorough cultivation throughout the summer, and the surface of the ground never allowed to get hard or baked.

If these few directions are observed, a magnificent display of chrysanthemums will be had in the fall after all other flowers have ceased blooming.

The chrysanthemum is one of the finest fall blooming plants for the house. Young plants secured in May or June should be lifted into larger pots from time to time, until five to seven inch

pots are reached, according as the grower desires. If cut back, as above instructed, large stocky plants can be had in the house in full bloom throughout the autumn months. Few realize that amateurs can grow large blooms of exhibition quality; yet this can be done by growing plants to a single stem and removing all but the terminal bud. In growing chrysanthemums in pots, they can be placed in frames or among other flowers, but the most satisfactory way is to plunge the pots to the rim in the soil, thus causing less danger of drying out, and requiring much less attention. They must, of course, be watered during dry times, and the plants should be turned immediately before watering, at least once in two weeks, to prevent rooting through the pots under the soil.

The principal enemy to chrysanthemum culture is the black fly, which is easily kept in check by frequent applications of tobacco dust or spraying with a solution made by boiling tobacco stems in water. This solution should be about the color of strong tea.

Even the tender varieties of chrysanthemums can be kept over with good results, by covering the plants outside with pine branches (or other materia that will not harbor mice) to the depth of one foot to prevent frequent freezing and thawing. Chrysanthemum plants grown in pots can be placed in the cellar after they are through blooming and by not watering, except when absolutely necessary to prevent shriveling, will be in excellent condition for planting the following spring.

Apples for Home Use and Market.

1095. SIR,—I see in the May number two questions asked and answered, but along