

results if several stalks are allowed to grow together. Its foliage is very much like the old "Ribbon Grass," though of course on a much larger scale. It should be planted in "hills," like the common

corn, one stock not being sufficient to bring out the desired effect. As a plant to be used in the center of a group it is very desirable.

--E. Rexford in *Vick's Monthly*.

## BEGONIA ERFORDII.

BY W. HUNT, HAMILTON.



FIG. 2337. BEGONIA ERFORDII.

**T**HIS is one of the pearls amongst this useful and popular class of plants.

Its habit of growth together with its free flowering propensity makes it a valuable addition to the numerous varieties of Be-

gonias known to floriculture. Even a small plant of *B. Erfordii*, when laden with its delicate pink blossoms, is very attractive, but when used as a border around some taller growing variety out in the open ground in summer, its beauty and adaptability for bedding purposes, as well as a pot plant, can be thoroughly appreciated. Used as a bedding plant it requires a light, well drained soil and, if possible, a slight shade from the sun during the very hottest part of the day. *Begonia Vernon* and *Begonia Ingrami* are also good varieties for bedding out. Being of a more upright habit and of rather stronger growth, these are well suited for the centre of a small bed, whilst *B. Erfordii* is better suited as an edging plant.

There is no reason why this type of *Begonia* should not become quite popular as bedding plants as both the *Erfordii* and *Vernon* are raised easily from seed. The seed should be sown in February or March in a greenhouse or hot bed and grown indoors until early in June, when the plants can be put out into beds or borders after all danger of frost is over. The seed requires careful sowing, as it is very minute, but after the plants have passed the seed period they are as easy to handle as almost any seedling plant. These *Begonias* also strike readily from cuttings. The plant as shown in the photo is growing in a 2½ inch pot.