

stoves during severe weather, when plants are growing. It not only helps to prevent gas from having an injurious effect, but modifies the temperature to a great extent. The most effectual way of fertilizing plants in pots is by applying it in a liquid form. Caution is necessary, however, not to apply it too strong. Weak and often is the best method and has the most beneficial results.

On the afternoon of warm days it is a great benefit to growing plants to have their foliage sprinkled. It helps to wash off the dust and keeps the plants in a healthier condition. Cleanliness with plants is a great source of success. An occasional sponging of the leaves frees them of insects and gives them a chance to breathe more freely than when coated over with dust. Fresh air must be supplied to plants, as well as animals to insure good health. On all good days give enough to change the atmosphere of the room. It is best given at the top of the window, as a circulation is then made without causing a draught, which, under all conditions, avoid. Rather then have a cold draught rushing through the plants, keep the window closed, and there will be sufficient air admitted through the laps to benefit them.

A tablespoonful of ammonia in two quarts of water is strong enough for the most vigorous plants and has a wonderful effect upon most all kinds of plants. Guano is an excellent fertilizer, but has to be used with caution, as a little too much may destroy the roots of the plants to which it has been applied, and may lead people to look for the wilted condition of the plant to some other cause, and apply remedies which will prove more destructive than beneficial. Just sufficient to slightly color the water is strong enough to use guano in a liquid form for plants. Soot makes excellent manure for plants in pots, if judiciously applied. It gives a bright green tint to the foliage and deeper colorings to the flowers. On some kinds of plants—such as hydrangeas—it changes the color of the flowers altogether. It is difficult to mix soot with water, if put into it loose; but when tied up in a cloth, and then soaked in the water, it can be pressed out and made as strong as wanted. Only very small quantities should be used. If applied strong it destroys the roots of the plants, like guano. Pigeon and hen manure make good fertilizers for plants; if coal be mixed with it, the smell is mostly destroyed; but caution has to be observed in its use, as it is like guano, very strong, and injurious to plant-life when used too strong.

All plants grown in greenhouses and windows are liable to insects of some kind. Some kinds of plants are more subject to the attacks of insects than others, and some kinds of insects are more easily destroyed than others. The best preventive of insects of all kinds is thoroughly syringing the plants that endure it without injuring the foliage. Some kinds of plants, such as the fine-leaved begonias and Chinese primroses, which are both very impatient with water overhead, are not liable to the attack of any kinds of insects. A dry, warm atmosphere is just the condition for insects being produced in large numbers, and is a condition unsuitable for plants thriving in. It is generally unhealthy plants that