

used separately they add hours to their life and beauty.

The device will be found useful, as well, in mantel and basket work, as they are readily placed in soft soil and the moss of baskets. We find that a vase without a cap, holding four or five sprays of lily of the valley or other flowers adds considerably to a plant basket when it is inconvenient to disturb it to crowd in something with roots.

The spray of flowers on the handle also lasts much longer when the vases are used. A rubber cap with a larger opening readily admits and holds orchids, such as cattleyas, and other soft and thick-stemmed flowers. For a window display with curtains of asparagus or on tree stumps and branches, they hold and keep the flower better than it can be kept in any other way.—*American Florist*.

JAPANESE ZEBRA GRASS.



FIG. 1731. ZEBRA GRASS.

IN our garden the hardy ornamental grasses have always been favorites. But among our collection of these, comprising many sorts, there is no other one kind which gives better—we were about to say gives equal—satisfaction, to the Japanese Zebra Grass, *Eulalia japonica zebrina*.

The accompanying engraving affords a very good representation of the plant we are speaking of. Unlike all other variegated grasses, this one has its striping or marking across the leaf,

instead of longitudinally. It grows five or more feet in height, forming a most striking and graceful plant, resembling nothing else that we know of in cultivation. The expanded flower spikes resemble the ostrich plumes, and when dried, last for years.

This variegated Grass we find useful in many ways. In the mixed border amongst herbaceous plants it is a pleasing and striking object, and in a cut state for the decoration of large vases it is most valuable, as its graceful arching leaves gives a degree of brightness to floral arrangements not otherwise obtainable. The variegation, too, is clear and well defined, a circumstance which adds to its beauty. It is a great gain to be able to cut spikes of it four feet high for indoor decoration.

When first introduced from Japan it was believed that this plant would not prove hardy. Years of cultivation with it as far north as Buffalo proves it to be entirely so, and we are able to cut from it in the open borders up to the end of November.

Any soil not too rich suits it; in rather dry poor material we find that the variegation is more clear and defined. We have grown it in pots the year around, and find that it makes a capital plant for mixing with Ferns and other fine foliaged plants in the conservatory.

This very desirable plant may now be had of all dealers in hardy plants. It can also be raised from seed, packets of which can be bought for about twenty cents each.—*Popular Gardening*