

# Window Boxes, Hanging Baskets and Rustic Stands\*

William Hunt, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph

ANY aspect rather than a direct south aspect is best for a window box, a north or east aspect being the best. If the windows face the south, the box should be shaded by an awning for a few hours in the hottest part of the day. In a window facing the south and fully exposed to the direct and concentrated heat of the sun against the building the greater part of the day, it is impossible to have complete success with a window box, even if filled with the hardiest sun-resisting decorative plants.

## POT PLANTS IN BOXES

Plant lovers, especially in cities and towns, are often at a loss to know what best to do with house and window plants in summer, having no space out-of-doors perhaps to stand the plants in the shade for a change and rest. By placing the box outside of an east, north or west window, standing the pots in the box (arranging the plants properly for effect) and packing moss around them, almost all house and window plants can be very much improved in appearance, with but little care and attention. The moss prevents a too rapid evaporation and keeps the roots of the plants cool and moist. Common moss from the bush or sphagnum moss can be used for this purpose. This is a much better plan than standing the pots on window sills and exposed verandahs, where the sun and wind compels constant and copious waterings, the plants oftentimes suffering badly even when attended to regularly, in the matter of watering.

## VERANDAH BOXES

Verandah boxes are made in a similar manner to window boxes, differing possibly in shape, so as to suit the requirements of the position they are to occupy. If used on the floor of the verandah, it is well to set the boxes in large trays or pans made of galvanized iron, to prevent rotting the floor, as well as for cleanliness.

## HANGING BASKETS

The ordinary earthenware hanging basket should have the bottom constructed so as to form a saucer, in order to avoid the troublesome, unpleasant, and dangerous operation of either lifting the basket down, or of flooding and damaging the floor of the verandah every time they are watered. Several potteries have adopted the style of having a saucer as part of the basket, but in most specimens that I have seen, the saucer is rather too narrow and shallow to be of the best possible use. The holes through the bottom of the basket into the saucer

placed there for drainage purposes, are also often too small and too few in number to fully serve the purpose for which they are intended.

For a lawn and exposed position, I prefer hanging baskets made of wire. As a rule, the ordinary wire baskets sold are not deep enough to be serviceable. The wire basket should be lined at time of filling with thick wads of moss placed round the basket with green side outward. The soil and plants can then be filled in the same as when using an earthenware basket. The moss helps to conserve the moisture in the soil and prevents a too rapid evaporation. Plants succeed better in wire baskets than in earthenware ones and should be more



Rustic Stand for Plants and Flowers  
Bottom of an apple barrel, fifteen inches deep, covered with native bark

used than they are, if only for this reason.

## RUSTIC STANDS

Rustic stands are one of the most effective and easily obtained features of lawn decoration. A rustic stand can be made of the crudest and commonest materials, if a little artistic and original taste is made use of in connection with their make up. A tub part of a barrel or a box of suitable strength and size can be transformed into a really pretty and effective rustic adornment with a few pieces of common-lichen or moss-covered pieces of bark from our native trees nailed around them; or can be covered with cork bark, if something more uncommon or elaborate is required. Small pieces of cedar saplings split in two with the tops pointed so as to represent a rustic picket fence and nailed on the

tubs also makes a pleasing and effective stand for the lawn.

One of these rustic tubs or boxes placed on a piece of round timber of pine or any native tree, with the bark left on so as to look as natural as possible, will make a very effective and pleasing object placed around the lawn or grass plot, when filled with flowers and trailing plants. The piece of timber used should be sunk into the ground a little, if not large enough to stand firmly of itself. The box or tub also would be better if fastened down to the stand with a piece of wire in two or three places to prevent it being blown or pushed over.

Fossil stones, or large rough stones, can be used very effectively as stands for above purpose. An old hollow trunk or pollard of a basswood or other tree, about two feet six inches in height, also makes an effective rustic adornment when filled with good soil and plants. One of these last named filled with scarlet salvia and trailing plants makes a most conspicuous and pleasing object on the lawn in summer time.

Rustic stands can be purchased at most of our large feed stores in several designs. The ordinary wire stands are not very ornamental and not suited for pot plants out-of-doors, especially in an exposed sunny position, as the plants dry out too rapidly in them. If these stands were constructed so that moss could be packed around the pots, they would at least have the merit of being useful, if not ornamental.

## IRON VASES OR STANDS

Many of the iron urns or stands one sees on lawns are of themselves quite ornamental, but are expensive and not at all adapted to grow plants in successfully. The basin or urn is usually too shallow to allow of sufficient soil to grow plants in. Iron also being a conductor of heat, the soil dries out very rapidly. A deeper basin, eight to ten inches in depth—according to size of urn—and the sides made perpendicular instead of sloping, and more holes in bottom of basin for drainage, are desirable points to make iron lawn vases a success for growing plants in. The basin could have a temporary lining of thin wood fitted around inside. This would prevent to a great extent the rapid drying out of the soil and be very beneficial to the plants.

## CEMENT VASES

Lawn vases made of cement with pieces of stone or fancy pebbles placed all over the surface—so as to present a rough, natural-looking surface, also make a very effective lawn decoration filled with plants.

\*A continuation of Mr. Hunt's article that appeared in the February issue. The best plants for filling window boxes, etc., will be dealt with next time.