

snap-dragons, are not very exacting as to the nature of the soil, flourishing in either a loamy or a stiffer soil with almost equal vigor and profuseness of flower. A rich soil, however, brings much larger flowers and richer and more intense tints and shades of color. A dozen or two plants each of the

snap-dragon and scabiosa planted out in the garden will not only beautify the flower garden but furnish an almost unlimited supply of cut flowers the entire summer. Both of these varieties are largely grown by commercial florists, a fact that proves their usefulness for cut flower purposes.

FICUS REPENS.



FIG. 2265. FICUS REPENS.

This plant is perhaps one of the prettiest evergreen greenhouse climbers that we have. One would scarcely think, judging from its miniature-like foliage and its decided climbing habit of growth, that it belonged to the same class of plants as the well-known rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*) that has such coarse, heavy foliage, and is altogether of a

different habit of growth from this little climbing *Ficus*. Unlike a good many so-called climbers, *Ficus repens* requires no tying or training to induce it to cling to any support against which it is planted. In this respect it is very similar to the out-door climber, *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, or Boston Ivy; in fact, it has sometimes been termed the indoor Boston Ivy. It is very easy to propagate, striking root readily in sand in a moderate temperature. For covering a wall or even a board partition in a greenhouse or conservatory it comes in splendidly, as it is of very small culture, in fact, if given only fairly rich soil and an ordinary greenhouse temperature it will soon cover two or three square yards of surface with its ivy-like growth and small glossy green foliage. Its immunity from insect attacks as well as its ease of culture is another point in its favor, as few, if any, of the insect pests that are so partial to greenhouse climbers ever give any trouble with this miniature *Ficus*. A fairly rich compost of loamy soil, plenty of root room and a temperature of 50° to 75° suits this useful little climber splendidly. The plant as shown in the photo had been planted only about a year and a half from a cutting when the photo was taken.

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