


census, it seems to me that taking the year through, the majority of landscape flowers are yellow. At least, such species as wear this color grow in greater abundance than those of other tints. And if the strange yet plausible theory of Grant Allan be true, that all flowers were originally yellow, but that

in the processes of evolution they have experimented with other colors only to work back again to the original hue, it is easy to account for the plentifulness of this color.

NOTE.—This is a selection from Mabel Osgood Wright's recent work, *Flowers and Ferns in their haunts*; from the chapter entitled "Some Humble Orchids."

SENDING FLOWERS THROUGH THE MAILS.

ENDING flowers through the mails is a pretty sentiment and often a source of delight to the recipient, especially when the flowers are of a new variety and sent from a long distance by a traveler in token of the places seen and visited. The object of this sketch is to give a few hints as to the best way to pack them to insure the certainty of keeping fresh and fragrant.

Let us suppose that pansies and lilies of the valley are to be arranged for transportation through the mails. A small pasteboard box must be procured and lined with cotton wadding moistened with water; over this make a bed of the leaves from the lilies, and upon these leaves place the flowers. Much taste may be displayed in the arrangement, and upon opening the box the effect will be quite the same as that of a bouquet. Cover the stems of the flowers with damp moss in such a way that they will be firmly imbedded, and thus kept fresh for a long time. Before putting the lid upon the box sprinkle the flowers and place a covering of leaves over them.

A friend who received a box of camellias from Georgia, reported their arrival in perfect condition. Their stems were laid in freshly cut potato. Some florists wrap oiled paper or tinfoil about flowers when all has been done to prevent the escape of moisture. I have received roses packed in their own leaves in a perfect condition after several days.

At Christmas time flowers are a very sweet remembrance for the friends to whom we dare not send anything of more pecuniary value, and a would-be lover may express volumes in the selection of a box of these dainty things for the lady to whom he has not yet made an avowal of his affection.

In winter, flowers are more easily kept moist than in summer, which is the main point to be achieved in sending a long distance.

An excellent authority gives the advice to plunge the stems of wilted and drooping flowers into hot water to about one-third their length, taking care that their blossoms are untouched. This process drives the "sap" back into the flowers, and causes them to revive in a short time, unless already hopelessly faded. Cut away the withered portion of the stem before putting into cold salted water or wet sand, which is better for vases and dishes in which flowers are to be kept, because it will preserve them longer.

Do not gather flowers while the sun is shining upon them, but choose instead the early morning or the hour after the sun has gone down. Avoid pulling or tearing from the plant; cut with sharp scissors or a knife, and in the case of varieties having a large stalk or stem, rub a little dirt over the wound. Always leave as long a stem as possible, not to interfere with other buds or blossoms.—*Jenness Miller in Household Companion.*