

## IMPORTED BULBS AND THEIR CULTURE.

subdued light until the blanched foliage has attained its healthy green color and then to a sunny situation.

Abundance of air and plenty of water at the roots is necessary for early well developed flower spikes.

A dry or frosty atmosphere, or a draughty situation, will cause the flower buds to shrivel. Force gently in a temperature of about 70 degrees.

If you prefer finely developed trusses of rich colors to early flowers, the hyacinth should not be forced, but left longer outdoors to develop and then removed to a mild temperature like that of a sitting room window, where it will also get the most sunlight.

When cultivated in glasses the base of the bulb should at all times just touch the water in which a few pieces of charcoal have been placed.

Keep in a cool, dark place until there is an abundance of root growth, they can then be gradually admitted to the light until they are placed in the sunniest situation. Avoid a too dry or frosty atmosphere.

Bulbs that have flowered in water are of little use, and results of any account can be had only when planted out of doors.

When done flowering cut down the flower stalk and continue watering, allowing the leaves to return their nutriment to the bulbs. When the leaves have become withered the bulb should be placed

in a sunny situation for a week to dry, and then placed in dry sand for next season.

Quite often bulbs of the second year's growth, or those which have not attained a sufficient supply of roots before being admitted to the light, will put forth their buds away down among the leaves and refuse to elongate their flower stalks as they ought to, which is disappointing indeed.

If you observe a tendency in this direction make some cones of thick paper and invert over the plant, cut off the apex of the cone making a hole about an inch in diameter for admission of light. The buds will reach up towards this opening in their eagerness to get to the light, and in this way the stalk can be made to lengthen itself properly. While hyacinths are in bloom it is well to remove them from direct sunlight as the flowers will last much longer in a cooler temperature. In conclusion, I might add that the bulb reports for this season are not at all promising, especially from Dutch and French growers.

Dutch growers will consider themselves quite fortunate if their yield amounts to half their production of former years, the larger sized bulbs will, no doubt, advance considerable before the season closes.

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