

Horticulture.

Flowering Bulbs.

These are so easily grown, and form such desirable objects of floral decoration, both in the out-door garden and in the sitting-room or parlour, that it is really wonderful they are not more widely cultivated. What more beautiful than a collection of Hyacinths or a bed of Tulips in the open grounds? What

second year of a hyacinth, it is less beautiful than the first, and in another season or so, it dwindles away in a few little spikelets of bloom. If some method of treatment could be found by means of which its career could be made like that of the tulip, it would be a great boon to the lovers of fine flowers. But still the small outlay required to purchase an assortment from year to year is well repaid in the beauty, elegance, fragrance, cheerfulness, and education and gratification of taste thereby secured.

Those who wish bulbous flowers for winter and early spring flowering, must select, buy, and plant in

should be raked off in the Spring, as soon as hard frosts are over.

So much for the out-door culture of bulbs. In-doors they may be grown either in pots or glasses. Pot culture is similar to out-door culture so far as the preparation of the soil is concerned. After planting they should be kept in a moderately cool, dark place until the roots have time to form, when they may be brought into a lighter and warmer place. Hyacinths may be grown in glasses filled with water, which should just touch the root of the bulb. They should be kept from the light, until the roots have struck



SINGLE

HYACINTH.



DOUBLE

HYACINTH.

more enlivening and love, than a few glasses or pots of such flowers in the house during mid-winter? The attention they require is mere child's play, for no vegetable even is more simple of culture, than are these bulbs. Their cost too is comparatively trifling, especially tulips. The outlay of half a dollar or a dollar will secure a beginning from which, multiplying year by year, a very large supply may soon be obtained. Hyacinths are somewhat more expensive, and the worst about them is that they deteriorate, and at length fizzle out in the hands of ordinary flower-growers. Their course is akin to that of a splendid rocket, which, after displaying its magnificence for a little while, breaks into a number of beautiful fragments, and then disappears. The second

year of a hyacinth, it is less beautiful than the first, and in another season or so, it dwindles away in a few little spikelets of bloom. If it is too moist the bulbs will be likely to rot. A poor soil may be enriched with well rotted stable dung, or with surface earth from the woods. Cow manure is excellent for bulbs. The dung should be well mixed with the soil, and it is a good plan to put a little sand round the bulb at planting. A good deep soil is best. If it is too clayey, it may be improved by a little leaf mould from the woods, or by the addition of some sand. Liberal doses of cow dung and sand will fit any soil for the growth of bulbs. After planting and before winter sets in, the beds should be covered with a few inches of leaves, loose litter, or coarse stable dung. This covering

well. The single hyacinths do best in glasses, and the double ones in pots. Tulips can only be grown to advantage in soil, but they do exceedingly well in-doors, and greatly enliven a room in the winter time.

We present herewith beautiful engravings, life-size, of the Single and Double Hyacinth. Magnificent as these blooms appear, our artists have not exaggerated them, and, at a trifling outlay, every dwelling in the land might have just such splendid floral ornaments. We also give on the opposite page, illustrations of the Duc Van Thol and Double Tournesol Tulips, the two best varieties for in-door pot culture. It is not yet too late in the season for our readers to furnish their homes with some of these desirable and easily procured decorations.