

RAISING AND CULTIVATION OF ANNUAL FLOWERING PLANTS.

any pot grown plant because they will receive no check in moving. So friends with a little care and trouble for one summer you can have roses at a very

small outlay, only get your plants from some reliable florist and have them come by express.

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THE RAISING AND CULTIVATION OF ANNUAL FLOWERING PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN.

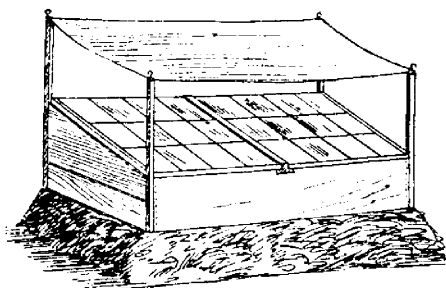


FIG. 1102.—HOT-BED FRAME.

THESE can be obtained at much less expense and with far less attention and trouble than plants which have to be kept over and propagated from cuttings; and for the amount of bloom, and the bright appearance they give during nearly the whole flower-producing season, they well deserve to have the care bestowed on them which they require to bring them to perfection. Every one with a garden of any pretension has a corner where some of these beautiful annuals could be accommodated, and where they would well repay any attention given to them. This short paper is intended for amateurs in the flower growing line, and I will give a few plain directions of how to make a hotbed for the tender annuals (with a list of those most suitable), the manner in which the seed should be sown and the attention required in the hotbed, the transplanting of such as require it in the hotbed, and their final transplanting to where they are to remain for the season, and flower. The

preparation of the soil for this as for any other crop is most important, and with good soil and good cultivation the results will be satisfactory. The hotbed may be of one or more sashes according to the number of plants required, and in any case the preparation of the material "hot stable manure" is the same. One chief mistake amongst amateur hotbed gardeners is in commencing too soon in the season. The earlier you start the more difficulties you have to contend with; and as the greater number have other vocations during the day to attend to, courting any more difficulties than can be avoided is not to be thought of. The material generally used for hotbed making is stable manure. It should be collected about two weeks before the time for building the hotbed, thrown into a heap and allowed to heat slightly before giving the whole a turn, that is, commence at one end or side and carefully mix all the material together by turning the whole pile over on to another part of the ground contiguous. In doing this, all the outside material should be placed in the centre of the pile, thereby making it as uniform as possible. About the beginning of April is quite soon enough to collect the material, and in about two weeks with frequent turnings will be in a good shape to build the bed. About two ordinary cart loads of the common stable manure usually obtainable will be sufficient for each sash of your bed. With proper