

WINDOW PLANTS.

Plants in the window will require to be watered thoroughly at this season of the year, so that all the soil in the pot is moistened.

Pots of the hardy varieties of narcissi, such as *Von Sion*, *Horsfieldii*, etc., should not be allowed to dry out after flowering. If kept growing they can be planted out in the border in spring. If left undisturbed for a year or two they will make a useful and permanent addition to the border. These bulbs may perhaps flower the second year in the window, but they are uncertain. Tulips and Dutch hyacinths can be treated the same as recommended for the narcissi; cuttings of fuchsias, geraniums, lemon-scented verbenas, and similar plants, will strike readily in pots in sand now, if young vigorous growth can be secured for cuttings. Begonia cuttings have better be left until April or May before attempting to strike them. A few pots of petunias, verbenas, cosmos and lobelia, should be sown,—if these are grown—as they require to be early to give good flowering results.

Nasturtiums for window boxes should be sown now, two or three seeds in a 3-inch pot, is better than sowing them thickly in a large pot, as they do not transplant as well as many other varieties. *Mignonette* should be sown eight or ten seeds in the same sized pot as for nasturtiums, to secure early flowers.

Watch out for sudden dips of cold weather in March.

Canna roots may be potted early in April and grown on until it is time to plant them outside at the end of May or early in June when all danger of frost is over. Hydrangeas, oleanders, and similar plants can be brought out to the light, and started into growth. Pot these into larger tubs now if necessary, before they have made much growth.

THE GARDEN.

Pruning should be finished up as early as possible, especially grape vines and gooseberry bushes. These require to be done early to secure the best results from them, but currant bushes and all fruit trees should not be left too late before pruning.

The material for a hot-bed should be in course of preparation. If the manure is fresh from the stable, throw it into a heap for a week or ten days. It should be turned over once during that time if possible before making up the bed. A hot-bed, even if ever so small, is very useful for a few pots of early tomatoes, peppers, cauliflowers and cabbage seed. If about six inches of good soil can be put on top of the manure, some lettuce, radish, and mustard can be sown in rows. These will give a few dishes of salad that will be both acceptable and healthful.

Place an apple or sugar barrel, from which the top and bottom ends have been removed, over a clump of the earliest rhubarb. Cover the top of the barrel over at night, or during cold days; this will probably give you a dish of rhubarb a week earlier than unprotected roots will.

Hardy roses should be pruned early in April as soon as the buds show signs of growth.

If you have any tender perennial or biennial flowering plants that are not protected, more especially hollyhocks and biennial campanulas, sprinkle a little long strawy manure over them. It often happens that these and similar plants are well protected by snow during winter, but during the early spring months are often exposed to severe frosts at night, and hot sun in the day time. This alternate freezing and thawing is very trying to plant life. Many garden plants that have pulled through the winter splendidly under the snow, are killed out by the fickle and varied weather that