SUNSHINE OR SHADE FOR FLOWERS

PLANTS DIFFER—SOME WILL SUCCEED IN AN EAST OR WEST, SOME IN THE SOUTH AND A FEW IN THE NORTH WINDOW—WHAT MR. E. E. REXFORD SAYS ABOUT IT IN HOME AND FLOWERS.

AS all plants are not alike in their requirements as to sunshine and light, it naturally follows that the plants grown should be adapted to the particular place in which they are kept. Those liking a little sunshine, such as the begonia, fuchsia and calla, are satisfied with an eastern exposure, where they get the benefit of the sun early in the morning. The geranium, carnation, rose, heliotrope, and, in fact, the majority of flowering plants, which must have plenty of sunshine in order to fully develop their colors, find no other exposure so satisfactory as that afforded by a south window. A western window answers very well for many plants in winter, when the sun is not strong, but it is a poor place for them in summer, unless something can be done to greatly modify the intensity of the afternoon heat. Northern windows are not adapted to flowering plants, but shade-loving plants can be grown in them very satisfactorily. It will therefore be seen that all the windows of a house can be utilized for plant growing, provided we are careful in our selections and adapt the plant to the window it is to grow in.

It is safe to say that, as a general rule, light-colored flowers are best adapted to windows having an eastern outlook. But there are many exceptions, and the only way to make absolutely sure of the best exposure to give a plant is to experiment with it, and thus find out what conditions of light it does best in. If I were asked to give a list of plants adapted to the several exposures mentioned, it would be something like this: For eastern windows—fuchsias, begonias, callas, Chinese primroses, Primula obconica, azaleas, plumbago, stevias, lobelias, and all kinds of bulbous plants. For southern windows—geraniums, roses, chrysanthemums, carnations, lantanas, oxalis, oleanders, abutilons, hibiscus, marguerites, and most of the plants having richly colored foliage. For western windows—bright leaved plants and a few of the more "accommodating" plants like the geranium, provided the effect of too strong sunshine is modified somewhat. For northern windows—ferns, araucarias, English ivies, palms, aspidistra, ficuses and seliganellas. Roman hyacinths, Primula obconica and Chinese primroses will often bloom well in sunless windows.

But the above lists are subject to great modification, because the florist who has "the knack" of flower-growing will contrive to so control conditions that he can grow almost any plant in almost any exposure. The sun can be tempered by shades and screens. Heat can be regulated, and water used in quantities to fit the losses by evaporation which will be different in different exposures. These things can not be put down on paper in such a manner as to make them plain to the reader, but they will come to the amateur florist by personal work among the flowers he grows.

We read a great deal about shade-loving plants. Now, "shade-loving" is a comparative term. It does not mean actual shade, in the sense ordinarily given the word, but it means an absence of sunshine. A fern is called a shade-loving plant, but it