



Spiraea Van Houttei Used as a Hedge

The hedge here shown is to be seen in the garden of R. O. Burns, Brantford, Ont., whose garden won first prize in a garden competition held in his part of the city last year. The trellis of climbing roses over the arch in the opening added much to the general effect. Such a hedge makes a good screen or division between a front and back lawn. The hedge shown is five years old.

The striped and flaked varieties are not much sought after. Helen Pierce is a pleasing mottled pale blue. Senator Spencer looks like a good thing gone wrong. Its color scheme consists of mahogany streaks on a dirty white ground. Prince Olaf is a good combination of purple and lavender and shows the marking well, as it is not ruffled. Aurora Spencer and America Spencer are both pleasing flaked varieties, the former an orange rose, the latter a rosy scarlet. The freakishness of Mariory Linzee is not in the color, which is pink, but in the form. It frequently has double standards, but does not seem any more desirable on that account.

For the person who can plant only a

single row of ninety or one hundred feet, a packet of twenty seeds of each of the following twelve varieties will be found more than sufficient. One, white: Etta Dyke Spencer; two, buff: Clara Curtis Spencer; three, cream pink: Mrs. Routzahn Spencer; four, pink edged: Elsie Herbert Spencer; five, pink: Countess Spencer; six, orange: Helen Lewis; seven, scarlet: Queen Alexandra; eight, crimson: King Edward Spencer; nine, maroon: Douglas Unwin; ten, blue: Lord Nelson; eleven, lavender: Asta Ohn; twelve, purple edged: Phenomenal. If only four varieties can be grown it will be found that Etta Dyke Spencer, Countess Spencer, Queen Alexandra, and Asta Ohn will blend very well, either on the plants or when picked.

The Winter Care of Window Flowers

R. S. Rose, Peterboro, Ont.

THE watering of window plants is one of the most essential points to watch if bloom is required and if you want your plants to be healthy and to give satisfaction throughout the season. There is no set rule for watering. I can only say this: Do not water too often. Frequent watering is apt to bring on disease and to decay the root. Only water when the surface of the earth has a dry appearance. Give enough water to thoroughly saturate all the soil in the pot.

Three times a week is sufficiently frequent to water plants although, of course, conditions differ. Plants that have lots of sun require more watering than those in the shade, and plants in small pots dry out more rapidly and require to be watered oftener than those in larger pots. In summer one can water every day, but in winter plants do not need the same amount of water for

their growth is not so rapid as it would be if they were out in their beds exposed to the hot summer's sun. Do not sprinkle only the surface, but water thoroughly.

After watering do not allow the pots to stand in a saucer full of water. See that this saucer is kept dry as otherwise you are apt to have your plants weakly and unhealthy.

INSECT TROUBLES

The most frequent insect pest of house plants is the aphid, commonly called green plant-louse. I do not wait for the pests to appear, as once a week I take a whisk and go over each plant carefully, thoroughly sprinkling over and under the leaves. The preparation I use is one cupful of coal oil to a gallon of soapsuds and water. I always keep a supply of this mixture on hand. It is made as follows: A half cake of ordinary washing soap is dissolved in one gal-

lon of boiling water. After cooling one cup of coal oil is added. The mixture is then well stirred.

Examine the leaves of your plants every day. If you find that some are turning yellow and drop off without any apparent reason, you will most likely find that the red spider is the cause. Turn up the leaves and examine them carefully. If any tiny webs show on it, you can be sure the red spider is at work.

Nothing will kill the red spider but moisture. I have had to use a tubful of water and souse the whole plant in it, going over each leaf between thumb and finger, rubbing them gently. Do this three or four times a week until the leaves have lost their yellow appearance and the plant regained its green freshness.

I collect all the tea leaves from the dining table, and once or twice a week, before watering, put them around the plants. I then water through them. This is good for the bloom and it also has a tendency to keep away insects.

THE BEST LOCATION

Windows facing south or west are the best. See that your plants have plenty of sun. As they love sunshine and fresh air give them plenty of both on very mild days. If possible open a door or window at some distance from them and let the colder air from outside mix with the warm air of the room where your plants are, before it reaches them. This is necessary, for, as your room is liable to be pretty warm, a cold draft directly on your plants is likely to chill them or give them a set back from which they may not recover during the season.

GERANIUM SLIPS

I am often asked about slips from geraniums taken from the garden to pot for the winter as winter plants. If winter bloom is wanted take in the whole plant, as plants that are one year old give much better satisfaction, as they will blossom throughout the winter. If, on the other hand, all that is wanted is for next year's outdoor growth, slips are all that are necessary. These should be kept clipped back and the buds nipped. One or two may be allowed to come to maturity, but no more if you want to have them do well out of doors next year. Plants that have been blooming all winter cannot be expected to do well next summer. All flowering plants must have a rest some time. So keep your whole plant for winter bloom and your slips for next summer.

One can have boxes in the window which will be a delight to the whole house. Such flowers as sweet peas, nasturtiums, dwarf climbing; mignonette, maret or Defiance, with the trailing tradescantia do well in boxes, with ordinary care.