

Seasonable House Plant Hints

HOUSE plants can be kept too warm as well as permitted to become too cold. A daylight temperature of from 60 to 70 degrees and a night temperature not below 50 is good.

There is no better place for house plants, and especially those which are expected to bloom, than in a bright, sunny kitchen, where the moisture will make the atmosphere more like the air we have during our warmer seasons.

Roses blooming in Winter are frequently helped a great deal by being given a little lime water poured upon the earth and allowed to soak into the soil about the roots. A rose cannot do any good in a sour soil, and lime will help to sweeten the earth if given in small quantities.

The so-called Christmas peppers are not only pretty but very instructive to the young student in plantology. They are used extensively as ornamental plants for their beauty. They are not at all difficult to care for, growing readily.

Ferns are very often killed or injured by kindness. It is injurious to these plants to keep the soil too wet. Some folks imagine that because wild ferns usually grow in a damp place, the domestic ferns must be kept very moist or they will do little or no good. Simply keep the soil moderately damp and if it is ever soaked thoroughly, it should not be watered again until the soil has dried out pretty well.

The Winter blooming begonia requires a pretty good soil. Well decayed old sod, or soil from directly beneath the sod, well rotted cow manure, and sharp sand about equal parts with a few small bits of charcoal through this mixture will make an ideal soil for potting Winter blooming begonias. Frequently begonias purchased from florists at the holiday season need repotting after a few weeks, and in such case the above makes a fine potting earth. The plants should continue to bloom for weeks and months in such a soil.

Hot blasts from a hot air furnace are very injurious to plants, and if possible they should not be kept near the register. A pall of water near plants will in a measure offset the evil effects of the overheated air.

Steam or hot water heat is ideal for plant culture in the house, but with care the plants may be grown successfully in a dwelling with a hot air furnace. Frequent spraying will be of great help under these conditions.

An occasional immersion of a plant in warm water will do much to keep down the red spider which does most of its injury in a dry atmosphere.

January is an ideal month to sow the seeds of many plants we wish to get started in the early Spring. Many have plants ready to set in the open by the time the soil is fit for outdoor sowing of such seeds. Petunias, heliotrope, verbenas, candytuft, phlox and pinks, as well as many other varieties of flowers may be started much earlier than common in this way.

The soil for sowing these seeds should be very light, free from all refuse, sieved fine, spread level in flat boxes, the seeds scattered thinly in very slight furrows and just barely covered, pressed down firmly with a board, and the soil kept moist. Moisten with a fine spray, and keep a pane of glass over the box, raised slightly at corners with match sticks. If kept covered for the first few days with cloth or paper to exclude the light and help to retain the moisture, the seeds will germinate more quickly.

During the severe Winter months many persons have their house plants frozen, and with a little judicious care much of such losses may be avoided. Wind penetrates every nook, and many windows are open more about the easement than many of us are aware, and it is astonishing how readily frost will pass through glass.

Paper is the best safeguard. Place several thicknesses of newspapers back of the plants in the window boxes. Cover all glass carefully with heavy cardboard or several ply of paper; do not pull down the window blinds and allow plants to remain between them and the windows.

If houses are cold, make paper screens by pasting several papers on light frames and form a screen back of plants. Leave open the side toward the stove or grate, but do not place plants very close to either if fires are kept burning briskly during

the night. Paper is a good heat reflector, and cold cannot penetrate paper as readily as it can wood.

The Cornelian Cherry.

Little need be said to establish the value of hardy shrubs for the production of durable and lasting landscape effects. For constructing foliage masses which will persist through the changing seasons no class of planting material is at all comparable. And when this foliage mass is enlivened, as at flowering time, with gorgeous streaks and splashes of color the worth of shrubbery is accentuated. Should the blossoms be followed by a crop of attractive fruits the decorative value of the bush is doubled.

A subject of notable value on account of its conspicuous, highly-colored berries, is the Cornelian cherry (Cornus mas). Long known in Europe and occasionally seen in old plantings of the Eastern States, this valuable bush is still uncommon in most parts of the country. Neat, compact and shapely in habit, the Cornelian cherry is a rather erect, small tree, having a fine growth of glossy foliage and ranging in height from 10 to 15 feet. The size and distinctive shape of the tree make it of unusual value for grouping, and a colony of half a dozen specimens is a striking feature on any lawn, particularly if it be surrounded or bordered on one side with some lower-growing cornus, spiraea or viburnum.

The very small, yellow blossoms open before any appearance of leaves, appearing at the same time as the forsythias and a few of the very earliest flowering shrubs. The oblong fruits, having the size of small plums, take on their brilliant, glowing scarlet hues in late August and for several weeks are a center of attraction. Besides their decorative worth the fruits have considerable culinary value and may be made the source of an appetizing jelly, quite similar to that obtained from cranberries.—W. E. Bontrager, Ohio Experiment Station.

Cut Flowers Kept Fresh.

Flowers cut several hours before really needed and placed immediately in water keep better than those freshly cut. The reason for this is that the fragile stems, when well filled with water, do not droop as quickly as those that have only their own juices to draw upon. Gather flowers in the early morning if wanted at night, and the night before if they are wanted to be at their best the following noon. A little salt in the water helps to keep them. Never place them on ice, as in that case

they wither immediately on exposure to air.

When garden flowers are shipped by mail they should be picked very early in the morning, while the dew is still upon them. Then place them in water in a cool, dark cellar until night. The flowers will then have drawn up a great deal of moisture to serve them on their journey, and only a little damp fern, moss or grass needs to be put around their stems to insure their freshness upon their arrival.

Orchard and Garden Notes.

Clean up the garden. Burn all weeds, vines, etc.

Apples will keep better wrapped in paper and stored in a cool cellar.

Put a little sand over carrots, beets or other roots to prevent drying out.

A bouquet of the straw or everlasting flowers, cut before frost, will last well into the Winter.

Where only a few cabbages are to be stored it is a good plan to wrap the heads in newspapers and put them on shelves in a cool cellar.

Pumpkins and squash should be stored in a cool, dry place. If stored in a hot place they will lose weight quickly. Keep them from frost.

Take up a few plants of parsley and set in pots or boxes in the kitchen window or a light basement window. They do not need much light or care and furnish an abundance of material for Winter garnishing.

As soon as the cannas, dahlias, gladioli, etc., have been killed by the frost, dig and store the bulbs in a frost-proof place that is neither too dry nor too moist. The bulbs must not shrivel or start into growth. It is often a good plan to cover them with dry sand or earth.

Pick up and burn all twigs and branches that have dropped from the trees, since they may contain injurious insects.

Dahlias have been especially fine this season. They seem to do best on a sandy loam and in a season that is cool and moist.

Tulips may still be set in the ground outside. A good bed of bright colored tulips adds much to the attractiveness of the home surroundings.

The most successful flower grower is one who is continually on the lookout to see what her wards are about. If the soil is dry she notices it; if a new insect appears she is on hand to fight for her charges. Few plants will for a protracted period do their best without care.

Celery delights in a low, rich, heavy, moist soil and is usually grown upon the same land year after year.

Beg, borrow or buy all the wood ashes you can to use in the garden. Work them well into the soil.

What Do You Think OF THIS?

3,000,000 Acres

FINE FREE HOMESTEADS and Montana Deeded Lands \$8 to \$40 an acre

Ready for the plow. Yields 30 to 60 bu. wheat, Oats, barley, flax, hay, etc., in proportion.

Finest Inland Climate. Land Sold on Crop Payment Plan.

Low fare Home Seeker's Excursions on first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Western Immigration Agent, C. M. & ST. P. RY. 2d and Cherry, Seattle, Wash.

SAVE TIME AND MONEY WOOD FIBRE WALL BOARD

Cheaper than lath and plaster; easy to put on, nailing direct to the studding. Keeps the house warm and dry.

\$21 Per Thousand Square Feet

(Send for Free Sample) Complete Illustrated Catalogue of building materials at the lowest net prices mailed free on application.

P. A. ROVIC CO.

1120 Western Avenue, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.



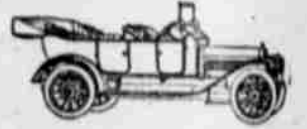
A Bargain Collection of FLOWER SEEDS FOR 12 CENTS

10 choice varieties, all new fresh seeds, sure to grow and bloom this season. Fancy 20 Colors; Fairy, 10 Colors; Lilies, 10 Colors; Pinks, 10 Colors; Petunias, 10 Colors; Dahlias, 10 Colors; Poppies, 10 Colors; Snapdragons, 10 Colors; Begonias, 10 Colors; Impatiens, 10 Colors; Marigolds, 10 Colors; The 10 Pack only 12c.

With each order we include a copy of **GOOD POULTRY** a quarterly magazine, devoted to special crops and intensive farming, with special attention to the race and breeding of poultry. This how to make \$250 per acre per year on 1/2 acre from 5 to 100 acres. Good Poultry also, 10c a copy; 50c a year, including a copy of new book, Intensive Farming, 10c a copy. **SHOREWOOD FARMS CO., Saugatuck, Mich.**

Become An Expert Automobile Man

Our expert instructors thoroughly qualify you in 6 to 8 weeks.



Why plod along in an underpaid position when there is a big job waiting for you? Write for Particulars. **PACIFIC AUTO & GAS ENGINE SCHOOL** 266-268 11th St., Portland, Or.

The Greatest Grass Grown in America

Grown North

Good for Hay Grain Forage Silage

Grown South

GROW SUDAN GRASS

THE MOST WONDERFUL GRASS OF THE AGE introduced and indorsed by the U. S. Agricultural Department. Tested severely by the farmers in all parts of Texas and strongly recommended by the Farmers' Congress. Never a pest.

Will grow wherever sorghum does, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Makes more and better hay than any other plant known. Under ordinary conditions produces 200 to 600 pounds of grain and 3 to 6 tons of choice hay per acre the same season. Adapted to all sorts of soil and resists drought and stands the rain well. Takes 2 to 5 pounds of seed to sow an acre in drills and 10 to 30 pounds broadcast. Quality of hay equals timothy and all kinds of livestock prefer it to alfalfa. Cattle fight for the hay and poultry fatten on the grain. Last Spring the seed sold for \$2 to \$4 per pound and all who grew it then expect to plant more next year. It is now selling at \$1 per pound and will go higher before Spring, as the supply is limited. We will send prepaid by parcel post pure Sudan seed for \$1 per pound in lots of 50 pounds and under —not less than one pound considered. Larger lots by freight cheaper. Better order now and be sure of getting the seed and save money and then make more money another year. Everyone who can should grow Sudan grass. Instruction how to plant with order. Circular free.

Address, **ELLAGENE FARM**, Box 15, Aldine, Harris County, Texas.

More Sudan Grass Means More Money Gained.

Grown East

Makes Money When Other Crops Fail

Grown West

Laughs at Drought — Smiles at Rain

Phone Main 3795

LIFE HEALTH ACCIDENT

IN **One Policy**

COMPLETE COMBINATION CONTRACT 3-1



INSURANCE CO. HOME OFFICE—SEATTLE, U. S. A.

Clip this Coupon and mail to the Home Office for full information—No obligation incurred.

Name:
Address:
Occupation:
Age nearest birthday:
Amt. Insurance Suggested: \$.....