# MyBay-WindowFebruaryGarden

walking abroad. The silence of Na-ture was oppressive and the cold penetrating. Our feathered friends had long since migrated to warmer climes, while many of the familiar wild things were enjoying their long We, therefore, determined to alcep. make our own sunshine within doors.

We had no conservatory, but an unusually large bay-window made an excellent substitute. Two broad excellent substitute. Two broad shelves ran around the entire length of the window, accommodating about 40 medium-sized pots. Two windows we devoted to bulbous plants, and the center window to geraniums and different varieties of the coleus,

different varieties of the coleus. In November, we received a present of Holland bulbs of hyacinths, nar-cissi, daffodils and tulips. It was this gift which prompted us to try a February garden. We immediately planted these bulbs in shallow pans, eight or nine inches across, placing the or six bulbs in each pan. We five or six bulbs in each pan. We secured a fine earth mold from the woods near at hand, finding by pre-vious experience that this soil is excellent for most plants.

After the bulbs were planted we placed them in a cool, dark cellar for a month, in order that they might be-come well rooted before being brought to the light. This, let me add, is very essential to successful bulb culture. We once tried to raise hyacinths without observing this rule. and the result was a stunted growth and an immature spike of blossoms.

In this instance, we were especial- the box or flat should be so it will successful with our hyacinths, not leak. ulbs of different varieties were If pots containing orange or lemon planted in the same pot and, when trees are set in basins containing in bloom, the effect was more than warm water once or twice a week, satisfactory. Spikes of flowers in and allowed to remain there for an varying shades of purple, rose and varying shades of purple, rose and hour, the fruit on the trees will de-yellow made a gorgeous display, even on a dark February morning. To fully grown, will ripen more quickly added what were termed "Dutch Ro-man" hyacinths. These bulbs are specially adapted for house culture, as they do not grow so tall or so farge as the Holland bulbs. Some people call these bulbs the "pan" variety. The smallness of the plant the pot or un a basin of warm water and the blossom is fully compen-sated by the fact that each bulb pro-duces several spikes of fragrant blosiom#.

I am not so fond of tulips as of other bulbous plants, and had only one pan. They added a brilliancy to our already gorgeous floral display. Our collection comprises two pots of white and two of yellow daffodils. The petals of pure white and the crown of yellow formed a pretty contrast; the flowers were so perfect that they resembled wax flowers. I was especially fond of my pan of yellow daffodils, for they seemed to scatter sunshine and good 'cheer, which even the dismal February clouds could not dispel.

To our collection of bulbous plants added a few miscellaneous ones. Our Cuban Illy was particularly beau-tiful. The blossom was white in color and not large. Indeed, this modest little plant would never have been noticed among its showy neighof freesias completed our list, if we except a tub containing an amaryllis which stood on the floor. The freesia is a free bloomer, although not a showy plant. We had both the white and the yellow varieties. The center of our bar hors had it not been for its peculiar and exquisite fragrance, so different

D NTIL we had our February gar-den this month was to us the most cheerless of the year. There was no pleasure to be obtained walking abroad. The silence of Na-

Floral Brevities,

Keep water from rex begonia leaves in cold weather.

Pinch all dead blooms from Chinese primroses and cinerarias and more lowers will come.

The little red spider is the cause of many leaves drying up. Keep foliage moist and they will disappear.

Paper tubes six or eight inches in length and large enough to cover the hyacinth foliage will help to make e spikes taller and bloom larger.

Do not forget that if green aphis are difficult to get rid of in Winter, your plants may be immersed in hot water with a temperature of 130 deearth in the pot, and dipping foliage in water in a vessel large enough for the purpose, every living creature will be killed and the plant uninjured. Do not fail to feed the azalea when

the buds are forming and all through its blooming period. Soak some fresh manure in water, and give the liquid to the plant, once or twice a week, in moderate quantities. This will bring finer blooms.

If the sand or earth in boxes or If the sand or earth in poxes or flats in which pots are placed in a sunny window is soaked now and then with hot water poured outside the pots, it will create a steam and a moisture that will bring new life to every plant in the place. Of course

and allowed to remain there for an hour, the fruit on the trees will de-velop much more rapidly, and when

do not grow so tail or so is quite dry, a wet cloth placed about the Holland bulbs. Some the pot or tub will help to supply the all these bulbs the "pan" moisture the plant requires. Place The smallness of the plant the pot in a basin of warm water blossom is fully compen-once or twice a month during Winter the fact that each bulb pro-months, and this will act as a tonic to reral splices of fragrant blospalm; a

Bath rooms are excellent for most Hyacinths will bloom most plants. luxuriantly there, and most foliage plants will thrive well in the bathroom on account of the extra amount of moisture. Geraniums do not bloom as well in Winter in such a moist atmosphere, and cacti are much better in the warmest and dryest atmosphere about the house.

#### Cellar Gardening.

Even the cellar can be turned into growing room during the Winter, when everything outdoors is frozen

Rhubarb, asparagus and mushup. rooms can be grown in the ordinary cellar. Success is most sure with rhubarb. Dig the roots now and store them in a cool, dark place, in damp sand or in soll, where they can rest. To force them, plant them in a base or half based and place them a box or half-barrel and place them near the furnace. The heat will soon force the roots into growth, and it



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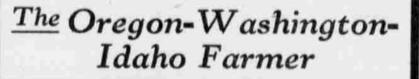
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devoted to geraniums and coleus plants. No plants are more satisfac-tory for Winter blooming than gera-niums, as they do not require more than ordinary care and are free bloomers. We prepared our slips late in August, bringing the plants into the house just before frost. Almost every color imaginable was re-peated in our geranium blossoms-single and double. Our coleus plants were also satisfactory, being easy to slip, and growing rapidly when once rooted.

I attribute a large part of the success of our February garden to the fact that the room in which these plants were kept was not lighted by 群道所,

In the rear of this bay-window stood a wire plant-stand filled with forms and palms. This made an ef-fective background. We tried in vain to obtain a picture of our window, but the result was so unsatisfactory that the attempt was discarded.

thought to produce a February gar- while.

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paragus. Mushroom growing in-volves more work, and few people really like the idea of having manure in the cellar, although there is no odor from it except on the day when it is put in the cellar. Horse manure should be used and should be prepared outdoors, and, when ready, put in the cellar. As soon as the bed is at the proper temperature, it is spawned, and the bed cased in. In a weeks mushrooms will appear few if the venture is to be a success. It is an uncertain crop for the amateur, and even professional gardeners sometimes fail.

#### Don't Buy Cheap Plants.

If one is forced by circumstances lants were kept was not lighted by as. In the rear of this bay-window ood a wire plant-stand filled with trns and palms. This made an ef-sctive background. We tried in aln to obtain a picture of our win-ow, but the result was so unsatis-tetory that the attempt was dis-rided. It takes considerable time and cought to produce a February gar-while. to keep garden expenses down to a

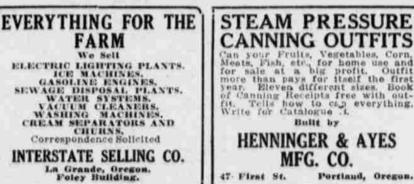
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