HOME AND FARM MAGAZINE SECTION

Few Good Plants for the Dining-Room Table

HE first requirements of plants which are to be used for ornamenting the dining-table is that be small-not over six or eight es, when plants 10 to 12 inches be used. When the centerpiece o high, it becomes an uncomfortobstacle to observation and conation.

erns are best for table decoration use they are small, long-lived in case of several varieties, and p, as a rule; at most greenhouses can buy them grown in two or e-inch pots for 10 cents aplece. he best, or at least the hardiest,

the small ferns, are the pteris. re are several of them, and the y shaped, and, in some cases, liarly marked, fronds make them attractive.

he so-called umbrella palm also tes an excellent centerpiece until rows too tall, but a small plant not, as a rule, grow so fast but it can be used all Winter.

Slow Growers.

Slow Growers. Pandanas Vietchii, Asparagus mosus, var. nanus, the slik oak revillea rodusta), Cocos Wedel-na, and Phoenix Roebellini, excellent plants for use as main plant. Although they will eventually grow large, their with is slow, so that, with few ex-tions, the trying conditions found the ordinary house will cause the th of the plants long before they th of the plants long before they me too large for use. Around e larger plants there should be Her ones, to cover the soll, and this purpose the small ferns al-dy mentioned are excellent. The all fern allies, too, like selaginella lycopodium, may be employed in same way.

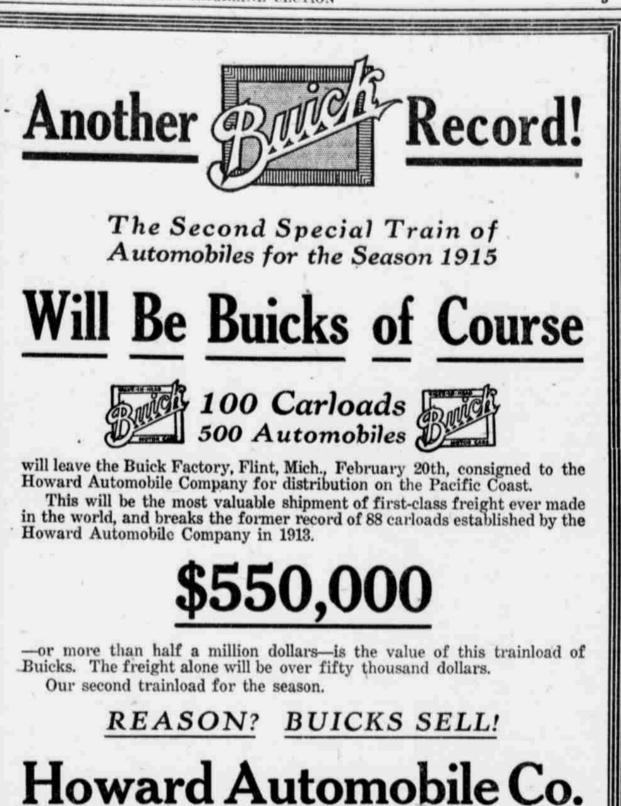
the plants, however, Vhatever must have good care if they are prove satisfactory for more than ew days. Only recently I over-rd a woman complaining to her that the plants in her fern which she was using as a cen-

nece, were not good plants. few questions only were needed elucidate the fact that, as the man had bought the plants to orate the dining-room table with. had kept them on the table conatly, which, of course, was a great take. Ferns, palms and other ats must have light; therefore, the table is cleared, the best n is to put the plants in a North other window, where they will rean abundance of light, but not direct rays of the sun, except, pos-ly in the early morning and late Watering must also be moon.

efully attended to. The dishes used for table center-ces are so small that, under ordicircumstances, the soll dries out dly. If a special dish, large ugh to allow the packing of damp around the pot containing the is used, a more uniform conon of moisture can be maintained, the dish will be so large as to k clumsy. A better way would to have a moss-filled dish or box a north window in which the dish be set during the time it is not the table

Hardening Plants.

one reason why centerpieces and er plants bought in greenhouses fall to give satisfaction is that wn shortly after they are taken



weather or something else does not interfere until the vines are full of sap, and bleed profusely when the

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After the fruit and foliage is off the vines, the sap returns to the roots, and then is the best time in the whole year to prune the vines. The vines is the best time in the whole is the prune the vines. The vines is the sap returns to the roots is the new sorts is the new sorts strong clumps in a shorter time. Peonies like a deep rich loam, enough so water will not around their roots and the su Late in November, or during the month of December is an ideal time to prune thoroughly and properly. Scarcely anyone is willing to trim

plants have not been hardened to meet the conditions found in ordinary house. To circumvent s, get the fern-dish filled with such the house under ordinary condu-the house under ordinary con as, get the fern-dish filled with such that as you like that will succeed the house under ordinary condi-every dead or diseased portion, and much of the growth made during the past season. Thin out so the light p it for you a week or two until soft growth, if there is any, has n hardened off, so that the plants n not wilt or the leaves turns the foliage is heavy. Place the vines over and about the trellis or arbor as you wish them, and tie up carefully so the Winter winds cannot beat the vines about and in-

standard doubles, for they are not so expensive as the new sorts and probably somewhat hardler, forming

MEL. G. JOHNSON, Manager

Peonies like a deep rich loam, high enough so water will not stand around their roots, and the surface soil should contain sufficient decay-

would advise a liberal use of the old of it, for the Bridal Wreath has graceful drooping branches which would not show to good advantage over a row of stiff peony plants. The best time to set peonles is af-

ter they become dormant in the Fall and before they begin to form the tender shoots from the base preparaing vegetable matter to prevent its to get the work done during some crust. tory to starting the Spring growth

Ornamental centerpieces for table are to be found in great vaboth as respects material and

Brass fern-dishes are particuy attractive and may be secured as small a sum as one dollar. ina dishes, attractively ornament-are used, to a large extent, and t from 25 cents up. Sometimes is possible to find dainty, small dinieres imported from Japan, ich make very attractive centeres when containing single small a. These jardinleres come both deep green and a dark red, and e characteristic Japanese decora-as. Silver fern-dishes are freontly used, and, while somewhat consive, are always ornamental and good taste.—By H. H. Henry.

Trimming Grape Vines. The old rule which has become il established is to trim grape in early Spring. that is a good time to trim if the greatly excel the old favorites, and I

jure the wood. Pieces of old shoe leather wrapped about the vine and tacked to the arbor make good retainers, but care should be taken not to have these too tight.-J. T. T.

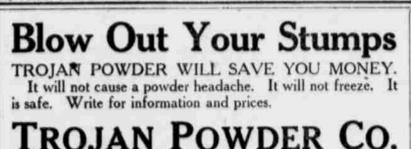
Old-Fashicned Peony Is Again a Favorite

THE peony is becoming one of the popular flowers again. The oldtime garden was not complete without a generous supply of large double peonies in red, white and pink. Today there are hundreds of varieties, varying greatly in form and embracing almost every shade from pure white to the darkest violet red. Odd and beautiful as many of red. Odd and beautiful as these new sorts are they do not

a light mulch unless you intend to give thorough cultivation throughout the season until they have matured the eyes for the coming year.

The hardiness of peonles and their compact habit of growth make them especially valuable to plant with ahrubbery. A background of ever-greens sets off their magnificent many insect pests. blooms to advantage. Planted along

Cowpeas or vetch makes a good bery rather than a solid row in front cover crop for the orchard.



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Orchard and Garden Notes.

It pays to pick up the fallen fruit just as soon as it begans to Fall. Go over the orchard each week and gather the "drops" and feed to the hogs. By so doing you will destroy

Never cut a limb from a fruit tree the edge of a clump of spirea Van Houttel, or Bridal Wreath as it is usually called, they form pretty masses, but they should be fitted into nooks in the outline of the shrub-Cowpeas or vetch makes a good