

growth of these "control" plants was rated as 100 per cent. Another group of similar plants was exposed to intensified atmospheric electricity by means of currents on an overhead wire. These showed an increase of yield amounting to from 15 to 40 per cent. A third group was treated with artificial high-tension electricity (direct-current). With a strong current the yield varied between 90 and 105 per cent, i.e. it averaged below the normal. With a weak current it was from 100 to 125 per cent, i.e. on an average, considerably above normal. In a fourth group, comprising only dwarf French beans, the plants were covered with a wire cage, arranged to exclude the natural electricity of the atmosphere. These showed a yield of only 86.5 per cent, i.e. they were decidedly below normal. It is found that applications of electricity should not be made during hot sunshine. In summer early morning and evening are best; in spring and autumn 7.30 to 9.30 a.m., and for two hours before dusk; in winter only in the morning, from 9.30 to 11.30. Applications during rain are useless, but, on the other hand, foggy weather is most favourable. Unmistakably success has, according to the report in question, been achieved in hastening the ripening of strawberries by several days, thus enabling the growers to command the highest prices at the beginning of the season.



MAGNOLIA LENNEI A HANDSOME FREE-FLOWERING HYBRID, PRODUCING LARGE ROSE-PURPLE FLOWERS.

**The Magnolias.**

Amongst deciduous trees the magnolias stand out conspicuously, both on account of the great beauty of the flowers and the free-flowering propensities of many of the species. The genus contains about 30 species, but several are not in cultivation, and some of those which have been introduced are not hardy, or are only suitable for culture in the more favoured parts of the coun-

try. The cultivated species have been introduced from China, Japan, the Himalaya, and the southern United States. Both evergreen and deciduous species are included, and the foliage in many instances is large and handsome. The fruits of some kinds are ornamental, particularly those of *M. tripetala*, which are about three inches long and one to

from cutting winds, and, though not absolutely essential, they appreciate a little peat about the roots. Transplanting is attended with some considerable risk, especially if the plants have occupied a certain position for any great length of time, and have formed a number of long roots with few fibres, for damaged roots frequently die back instead of healing. The best time to transplant, providing large balls of soil

**Narcissi, Emperor and Empress.**

Two of the most popular varieties of narcissus to grow for garden decoration are Emperor, a large, rich yellow trumpet, and Empress, a bicolour trumpet, the perianth being white and the trumpet a rich yellow. Both of these should be grown in large numbers. They are both varieties of good substance, strong growers, and will succeed in most situations. They are exceedingly reasonable in price, being procurable at somewhere about 1/6 a dozen, or 10/- to 11/- per 100.



NARCISSUS, EMPRESS.



NARCISSUS, EMPEROR.

two inches through, reddish in colour, and containing orange-coloured seeds.

In places where the climate is not suitable for open border culture, they may be planted against sunny walls, and in such positions they usually give very good results. They thrive best in moderately moist soil in a position sheltered

cannot be moved after being to the roots, is October.

Propagation is a somewhat slow process. Some kinds may be raised from seeds, but seeds do not retain their vitality for a very long period, so they ought to be sown soon after they are ripe. Grafting is resorted to in the case