

wet, unless weather this year will neutralise any advantage the new seed might have had over the old."

How to Gather Sweet Peas.

Early in the season, and when the flowers are quite young, they can be gathered easily and quickly by taking hold of the base of the stem, close to the socket, and giving a combined pinch and pull; there is an advantage when the stems are short that you get the whole length. At a later stage the stems have a tighter hold. Exhibitors, who generally get a good length of stem and a succession of flowers by their culture, generally gather by cutting.

RUST AND PERPETUAL CARNATIONS.

This disease has used up as much printer's ink as any disease I know, and yet today our knowledge of it is but very limited.

Certain varieties are more prone to this disease than others. This is particularly noticeable by those who raise seedlings, as some plants become affected and others remain perfectly healthy under precisely the same conditions. Of course, any seedling prone to disease should be destroyed, for no matter how good its flowers may be, it is constitutionally weak.

Rust is developed in nearly all cases by either excessive moisture on the foliage or in the atmosphere, and it can hardly exist in a dry, buoyant air.

The best remedy for rust is, in every case, first to remove all affected leaves, and then to dust the plants with a mixture of equal parts of sulphur and air-slaked lime. This will work marvels. I do not favour any liquid remedy, as the principle of the whole thing seems contrary to plants with glaucous foliage. Some growers of repute, however, recommend Bordeaux mixture; and liver of sulphur, used at the rate of about 1oz. to 10 gallons of soft water, with a little soft soap in it, is becoming increasingly popular in the United States. This mixture should be sprayed on when the sun is shining.

MONTAGU C. ALLWOOD.

COSMOS.

Those desirous of securing brightness for the autumn garden should not overlook putting out some plants of this popular annual. Cosmos have been called "the glory of the autumn garden," and we think rightly so, for not only do they impart a brightness to the garden, but are also most useful for cutting, and possess a lightness and daintiness which makes them highly prized; the fern-like foliage adds to the attractiveness.

We frequently, when travelling, note how plants are grown, and we know of hardly any annual which responds so generously to good treatment as the cosmos, and, we are sorry to add, so seldom receives it. Many people appear to be possessed of the idea that the more plants they crowd into a small space the better, and when one asks them to thin out the plants—well, they won't. Now, cosmos want about 3 to 4ft space for each and every plant to grow properly, and in very good soil 5ft won't be too much. Colours can be arranged by an examination of the stems—whites are green throughout, pink varieties have pink stems, and crimson a deeper shade; the yellow Klondyke has quite distinct foliage from all others. To grow cosmos well, give plenty of room, stake early, pinch out the top, and you will have sturdy, shapely plants, which will bloom with the utmost profusion.

ROSES ON THEIR OWN ROOTS.

There are some amateurs who do not understand what the above heading really means, and for the benefit of the uninitiated we put on record the meaning of the phrase.

The vast majority of roses annually sold by nurserymen are budded plants, i.e., a bud is taken from any desired variety and inserted in a stock; the stock may be manetti dog rose, briar, or other wild rose. Some roses do better on some stocks than others, a matter which our nurserymen find out by experiment and bud accordingly.

Roses on their own roots, however, are simply cuttings taken from the variety one may wish to propagate; they

are very easily managed, and though generally not so vigorous in growth as budded plants, give a good display of flowers. Cuttings should be taken in autumn, inserted in sandy soil, shaded from hot sun, when they root readily; the cuttings should be of half-ripened shoots, not over six inches long. Some roses do much better treated in this way than others, and it is a most interesting and useful experiment for anyone.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The National Chrysanthemum Society's autumn exhibition was held at the Crystal Palace on October 2 and 3. The show is one of the best in the recent history of the society, and as compared with last year's exhibition in particular shows how much better a cool, wet season is than a dry, hot one for the favourable development of the buds.

The finest exhibition blooms are in the

PLANTS FOR HOME ADORNMENT.

Of all the pot plants purchased for home decorations undoubtedly the palms take precedence. Their bold, majestic, yet graceful foliage lends a grandeur and magnificence that can seldom be obtained in any other class of plant. For the decoration of hall, conservatory or sitting-room, thousands are purchased annually by all classes of the community, from the humblest labourer and mechanic to the professional men with large incomes, who have for the adornment of homes all that money can purchase, yet how seldom does one see healthy specimens. In nearly every instance failure with the Palms is not the fault of the plant, but the result of lack of proper treatment. Poor method of watering is the primary cause of failure. Some folks apply water daily without regard to the condition of the soil. Palms are not aquatics and refuse to flourish when treated as such. Others again allow several days to elapse before

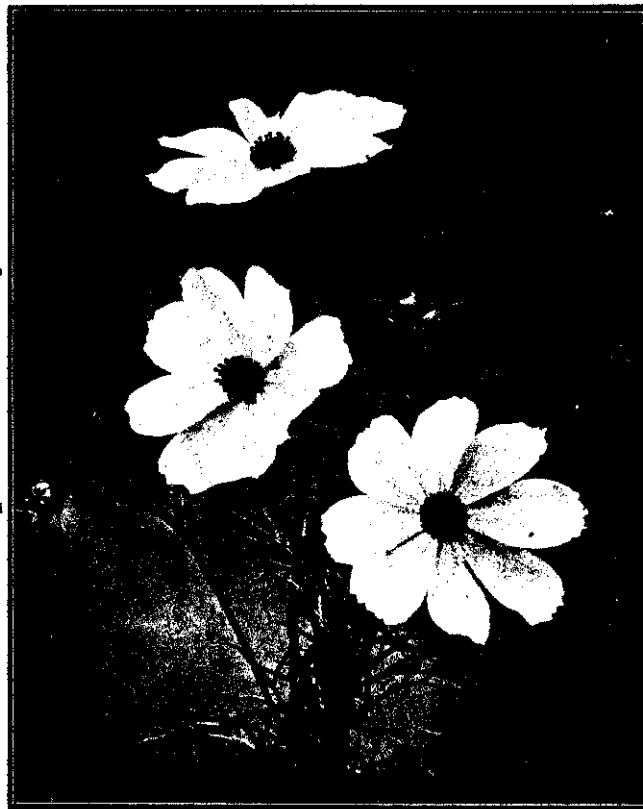
but just observe the difference after a few showers from above, and note the delightfully fresh appearance the rain gives your plants. In like manner will your palms benefit. Some people seem to labour under the impression that it is absolutely necessary to re-pot their palms at least once a year. This is an erroneous idea. Let them alone as long as they are doing well. They do not like to have their roots interfered with. Many a fine specimen is lost by re-potting when not necessary. When re-potting must be done, disturb the roots as little as possible. Never shake the soil off them as some advise, simply lift the plant out of its old pot, set it in the new, and fill in about it with fresh soil. Palms do not require large pots, an ordinary 9in. pot being ample for a ten-year-old plant. The best sized pot for an ordinary palm is 6 inches. This will accommodate a palm 3ft. high for several years. Before re-potting be careful to see that your pots are exceptionally clean both inside and out, otherwise you will find when transferring to a larger pot that the soil will adhere to the pot and many roots will get broken which considerably checks its growth. If new pots are to be used soak them for several hours in water. If not treated thus, the new pots will absorb all the moisture in the soil and keep the palm dry for several days.

Scale often attacks the palm and is generally found on the under side of the leaf. One kind, of a brownish colour, is of considerable size. Another, the commonest variety, has a thin greyish white appearance and will be found most plentiful along the midrib of the leaflet and between the stalk and leaves, where the latter separates from the bulbous base of the plant. Fir-tree oil or Gishurst compound will be found effective in combating this, but prevention is better than cure. Wash your plants once a week with weak soapsuds, and afterwards syringe with clear water, then there will be no necessity to purchase insecticides.

When a new leaf appears, apply some good fertilizers to assist it to perfect development. Soot water will answer the purpose to prepare this, soak 2 lbs. of soot, enclosed in a sack, in a kerosene tin of water and apply once a week for several weeks. A teaspoon of fine bone dust will also prove beneficial as a top dressing.

The most suitable palms for home decoration will be found in the following: Hedyotis (Canteburyana), Howea Belmoreana and Howea Forsteriana, natives of Lord Howe Island, and generally catalogued as Kentias.

H.A.W.D.



COSMOS, WHITE QUEEN.
A finely selected form, with regular and dainty flowers of purest whiteness. A.M., R.H.S., August 13. Messrs. Dobble and Co., Edinburgh.

class for 12 distinct Japanese varieties on boards, a well-contested class, in which first and second are won by Mr G. L. Wigg, Merstham, and Mr E. G. Mocatta, Weybridge, respectively. The class for six blooms, with eight entries, is won by Mr A. T. Miller, Leatherhead. These show-board classes should be compared with that for a single vase of three Japanese blooms of one variety, in which the Rev. T. Sheepshanks, Chudleigh, Devon, showing Frances Jolliffe, is placed first. Apart from the added value of stem and foliage, the vase brings out the beauty of depth of flower, whereas the boards emphasise breadth. Frances Jolliffe is a pale yellow suffused with pink, and Mr Sheepshanks' blooms measure a foot from the crown to the tips of the long hanging petals. Second in this class is won by Mr Mocatta's White Queen, a great favourite among specimen bloomers, being included in four other vases in the same class as well as in most of the boards. Other notable large blooms are Messrs Wells' Mes G. Lloyd Wigg, a canary yellow flower with a flat head a foot in diameter, and Mr H. J. Jones' Bob Pulling, a bright yellow with long drooping petals. These are the best novelties in the show, securing the only first-class certificates awarded.—London Times.

watering, consequently the roots become parched. These represent the extremes of watering. Between them is the happy medium by which the soil is kept moist, but never allowed to become mud. There can be no hard and fast rule because conditions differ so widely, but it is always safe to wait until the surface of the soil has a dry appearance, then apply sufficient water to thoroughly saturate all of the soil in the pot. One of the best guides as to the need of water is to rap the pot with the knuckle. If the pot sounds hollow it is a sure indication that water is required.

Another cause of failure must be attributed to dark corners of a room and dim halls. Light is essential to the well-being of all plants—no plant can long remain healthy if kept continually away from it, therefore if you want your palms to do well change their positions occasionally to where they will receive abundance of light. This will not only sweeten the soil, but greatly invigorate the plants. Upon every available opportunity on mild nights, cloudy and light showery weather place them out in the open in some sheltered corner, and let them have the full benefit of one of nature's greatest blessings, but remember, do not allow them to remain exposed to the sun.

You may water artificially for weeks,

FLOWERING AND FOLIAGE PLANTS FOR WINDOW BASKETS AND BOXES.

There are certain plants, by reason of their trailing or pendulous habits, which are eminently suited for cultivation in baskets or boxes, and which serve a useful purpose for the decoration of the greenhouse or for beautifying the house front. Indeed, many of these plants are never seen to better advantage than when they are permitted freedom in the matter of room and allowed to festoon over the front of a window box, or round a basket suspended from some greenhouse or conservatory roof. Annuals furnish us with several, and we could not select two more useful things than Petunias and Verbenas, the last named now, by consent of custom, being treated as an annual. Let these plants be planted out in a box or basket, the centre shoot being pinched and lateral growth encouraged, and the result will soon be plenty of leafage round the base and a prodigality of blossoms. Thunbergias are delightful annuals for flowering in the greenhouse, and they are never seen to greater perfection than when depending from a basket. Heliotropes, valued for their rich fragrance, make charming basket plants, as do Lantanas. One cannot omit either Fuchsias or Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums, and, needless to say, whether required for box or basket, a start ought always to be made with young plants. Amongst tuberous-rooted plants we take Begonias as being good bloomers, and yield a wealth of glorious colours.

ROSELEA.

PLANTS SUITABLE FOR WASTE PLACES.

In almost every garden of any proportion there will be found spots where it becomes a difficult matter to establish