

HOUSE PLANTS FOR WINTER

Varieties to Choose and the Care They Need.

TIPS FROM AN EXPERT FLORIST

Azaleas May Be Made to Bloom All the Season—Polisettas Gorgeous, but Hard to Keep—Orchid Easily Grown.

To make your holiday plants remain in attractive conditions as long as possible you should begin by selecting the right varieties, a florist said.

The next point is durability, the length of time a plant will last in or near perfection. The really valuable plant for indoor decoration must be able to withstand great variations in light, heat and moisture.

The Indian azalea stands first among the flowering plants used for indoor decorations. These plants are now so common with us that many people believe them natives, whereas the truth is not one is actually raised here.

As a rule they came to us early in the fall, are at once put into the greenhouse and are forced for Christmas and Easter decoration. While there are more than 150 varieties only a few are suitable for the purpose of forcing for indoor decoration.

The most popular are the Deutsche Perle, which has a snowy white flower and the Voranemann, a brilliant pink.

Kind of Plant to Buy. When buying an azalea select a plant on which the blossoms are not yet fully opened. The plant with the mass of open flowers may appeal to you as the most perfect and making the bravest show, but you must remember that after perfection comes the fading of the flowers and that within a few days the blooms will have gone and only leaves remain.

It is much better to have a much less showy plant with a plant that is filled with buds just opening. Such a plant will become more and more beautiful as the days pass and will often if properly treated last several weeks.

Potted azaleas are grown in two styles, the low dome and the taller conical. By all means choose the tall conical style. The low dome is by far the more common because it makes the greater show, but the tall shape is not only more artistic, but other points being equal, lasts longer. If a good selection is made and supplemented by intelligent care an azalea bought for Christmas will carry at least a few days more through the winter and be ready to set out in the yard or boarded with a florist when warm weather comes.

While azaleas are indoors, as the flowers fade, the dead corollas should be picked off and the roots kept well watered so as to encourage new growth. About once a week a small quantity of liquid fertilizer should be given. Such fertilizer is to be bought in powdered form at almost any good seed store for a few cents. A small package will be sufficient for half a dozen plants for the entire season.

Caring for the Plant.

When the weather becomes sufficiently warm and settled the plant may be set out of doors in a slightly shaded spot where there is free circulation of air, but not in the direct rays of the sun. During the summer the object should be to keep the roots cool and moist. This can best be accomplished by sinking the pot up to its rim in the earth and watering constantly.

When cold weather returns it should be taken in and can be easily made to blossom with more or less freedom in the winter garden. Under no circumstances should the roots of the azalea be allowed to get dry. This will cause the leaves to drop and kill all the flower buds in progress of maturing.

The Glorie de Lorraine begonia comes next after the azalea in point of popularity for indoor decoration. It is so profusely flowering a plant that often all the foliage is entirely hidden.

Individually the flowers are rather small, but taken in the mass they make a gorgeous effect in pure light pink. When first introduced in this country it was so beautiful that from being a novelty of the season it became at once a standard holiday plant. It lasts two long weeks, and after flowering it should be set back carefully if you wish to carry it over another year.

It is normally a winter bloomer and does best in a cool, bright atmosphere. Heat, especially dry heat, will cause it to deteriorate rapidly and under the usual conditions it is not always possible to carry it over for another year. It is best where the begonia is intended for the living room to buy plants that are already in bloom. Water moderately and keep as cool as possible without subjecting the plant to chilly draughts.

Glorious Polisettas.

The most gorgeous of all Christmas plants is the polisetta. The stalk varies from one to several feet in height and is adorned all its length with rich green leaves surmounted with a rosette of loosely arranged brilliant carmine bracts about the same size as the leaves, sup-

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Woman's Work
Activities of the Organized Bodies Along the Lines of Undertaking of Concern to Women.
The following complete program has been issued by the National Corn expositors and Women's day, Tuesday, December 7:

porting a cluster of insignificant yellowish flowers. There should be at least two stalks in a pot and three or even five give a much better effect. I know of nothing more effective for winter indoor decoration than a few polisettas of varying height arranged with a group of pure foliage plants.

Unfortunately these plants will not stand draughts. When subjected to chills the leaves shrivel and fall. Without a greenhouse it is quite useless to try to carry one over to another year. Even with a greenhouse if good plants are desired it is necessary to raise them each season from cuttings.

The best health is the most satisfactory winter flowering health. The flowers are small, but it makes up in profusion what it lacks in size. If treated like an azalea it will flower the following year. I have known of plants that bloomed winter after winter in window gardens, receiving only the attention bestowed on ordinary red geraniums.

It is a showy plant and inexpensive. The cyclamen is another showy flowering plant that may be had for a small price. If one cares to take the time it can be readily raised from seed in a window garden.

Not only are the flowers beautiful in both color and form, but the foliage is prettily marked and very ornamental when the plant is thrifty. Like the ordinary geraniums it thrives with a minimum of care if only protected from the frosts. It is excellent as a table decoration.

Orchid for the House. There is only one orchid that I recommend as a house plant under ordinary conditions. It is the lady's slipper, with flowers of yellowish green and brown. Though it is not very showy it is an orchid, and that fact alone makes it interesting to the average flower lover.

The flowers, even when cut, last a long time. It can be grown in the living room as easily as a geranium and will blossom profusely in the dead of winter, when there are few other flowers to be had.

Besides these plants desirable because of their flowers there are two red berries shrubs especially suitable for Christmas decorations and particularly desirable because the berries endure from one year to another. The ardisia is formal in appearance with alternate tiers of red berries and rich green leaves.

Besides being extremely beautiful it is about as hardy as any house plant that I know. It will endure for years, both the leaves and berries keeping their color and luster in the alternate heat and chill of the ordinary living room, with a varying degree of moisture and as much or as little light as you will supply. I recommend it highly to persons who are looking for an ornamental house plant that will grow under adverse conditions. Its berries are about the same size and color as the holly, while its leaves lack the unpleasant prickly spines.

The second desirable red berryed house plant is the skimmia, which, though far less often seen, is quite as desirable as the ardisia. These plants are imported from Europe and are already in full berry when they arrive. A plant of this kind should be cared for as the azalea and will flourish under the same conditions. If kept away from the frosts it will do very well in the window of the average living room.

One with Yellow Berries. A fitting companion for these two red berryed plants is the small fruited Otahete orange. It is the only plant with a yellow berry to be had at this season. Unfortunately the fruit is neither so plentiful nor so lasting as either the ardisia or the skimmia berries. It has, however, the advantage of being easily carried over from one season to another. It can be successfully grown in a window, where it will bloom and add a welcome fragrance to the room.

To make your holiday plants remain attractive as long as possible, after making a judicious selection you must be careful to keep them in a cool room. If you must keep them in a warm, dry room be careful about opening windows near the plants, as a draught will make them drop their leaves and berries about as quickly as lack of water on their roots.

Wednesday at 3 p. m. the club women of Council Bluffs will tender a luncheon at the Grand hotel, to which all club women are welcome, and for which the price will be 75 cents. Application for clubs should be made to Mrs. H. H. Fenford, 225 Hamilton Apartments, Omaha, or Mrs. Louis Cutler, 123 Bluffs street, Council Bluffs, by December 5.

The social science department of the woman's club has arranged one of the most important industrial programs of the year for Monday afternoon. The industrial conditions of women and children in Nebraska will afford the topic of the afternoon and Deputy State Labor Commissioner William Maupin will be the principal speaker on that subject.

The approach of the holidays and the visitation at that time of the state laws regulating woman and child labor, inspired the meeting. Local conditions will be presented by Local Attendance Officers E. D. Gepson and P. A. McAuley. General discussion will follow, led by Mrs. Halleck Rose, chairman of the Nebraska federation's industrial and child labor committee, and one of the best informed women in the state in these matters.

B. Fay Mills will also be present and will speak on "What Can be Done for Prisons and Prisoners."

Mrs. F. H. Maynard of Denver and the presidents of the Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Illinois federations of women's clubs will be the guests of the afternoon. An invitation has also been extended to members of local labor organizations. Because of the full program the meeting will begin promptly at 2:30 o'clock.

The Nebraska branch of the United States Daughters of 1812 has completed the first year of its organization and during this brief period has attained recognition among the prominent state chapters of the national society. Under the direction of Mrs. Herbert Gates of Omaha, state president, a substantial membership has been enrolled and interest extended that promises still greater gain. The annual meeting last week held at the home of Mrs. Charles A. Armstrong in Omaha, was largely attended and the following officers were elected: First vice president, Mrs. Charles Oliver Norton of Kearney; second vice president, Mrs. A. K. Gault, Omaha; recording secretary, Mrs. William Archibald Smith, Omaha; historian, Miss Agnes Taber, Kearney; treasurer, Mrs. C. E. Adams, Superior; registrar, Miss Alice B. Mills, Omaha; chaplain, Mrs. Elizabeth Stearns, Omaha. Mrs. Gates is state president in the superior officer of the organization and receives her appointment from the national.

The Daughters of the American Revolution will hold their December meeting Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles G. McDonald, 112 North Thirty-eighth avenue. Mrs. William Heller and Mrs. William Archibald Smith will be assistant hostesses. A report will be made of the recent state conference by Mrs. Smith, and General Grenville M. Dodge will give a talk of his experiences on the western plains. Mrs. N. P. Dodge, Jr., will give a violin solo. Mrs. Thomas Metcalf, state vice regent of Iowa, and Mrs. Montgomery of Council Bluffs will be the special guests of the afternoon.

The regular business meeting of the Omaha Women's Christian Temperance union will be held at 2:30 o'clock, December 8, at the Young Women's Christian association.

The current topics department of the woman's club has entirely suspended its meeting for Tuesday in deference to the woman's day program of the corn exposition.

The music department will meet Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when the program will be presented by the department director, Miss Blanche Sorenson. Mr. Vernon C. Bennett will give an illustrated talk on "The Furze," and a miscellaneous program will be given by Miss Mable Bosworth, Miss Ruth Ganson, Miss Grace McBride and Miss Alice Davis.

The art department will meet at 10 o'clock Thursday morning. Mrs. William Grigor, leader, "Renaissance in Japanese Art" will be the subject and papers will be given by Mrs. A. B. Somers, Mrs. G. E. Bryson and Mrs. George B. Davis.

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12-size, 14-K, Open Face, 17-Jewel, \$100.00-\$85.00
12-size, 14-K, Open Face, 17-Jewel, \$80.00-\$70.00
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