A knowledge of a plant's requirements and how to secure them is as essential in floriculture as in other branches of horticulture and agriculture. Our flowers have been gathered from different climates, soils and exposures. The object of the grower should be to supply as nearly as possible natural conditions.

In south windows of the living rooms place such warmth-and sun-loving plants as geraniums, vinca, coleus, heliotrope, lantana, browallia, petunia, orange, lemon, verbena and cacti.

In east windows place such plants as require little sunshine, but much light, i.e. fuchsia, oxalis, marguerites, begonias in variety, impatiens, etc.

West windows are usually too hot, especially in the fall and spring, unless the sunlight is tempered by thin muslin or by heat-loving vines such as Madeira vines, morning glories, etc.

Sunless windows may be utilized for growing palms, rubber plants (*Ficus elastica*), umbrella plant (*Cyperus alternifolius*), ferns and ivy.

Bulbs may be brought into flower in the cooler rooms. We may divide bulbs into two classes, according to their requirements. Hyacinth, narcissus, tulip, crocus, etc., must be well rooted before being brought into the house. Have a frame in a shady place into which you can place your pots of bulbs as soon as potted in the fall, and cover them at least four inches deep in sand. They are thus encouraged to throw out roots while the tops are kept dark and cool. If given additional protection they may be left here in winter, to be taken out, a few pots at a time, at intervals of about a week or ten days, so as to give a succession of flowers. Such bulbs as oxalis and freesias are simply potted, watered and set away until growth starts, as they do not need to possess a good root-system before growth begins.
Chinese lily and lily of the valley are potted and given considerable heat to bring out the flowers. Hyacinth and Chinese lily may be flowered in glass bowls of water into which enough pebbles are placed to hold the bulbs in position.

Buy only the best bulbs, as the flower buds are already formed and ideal culture cannot increase the number of flowers, though it does improve the quality.

The chief difficulties in growing plants in the house are lack of light, hot, dry air, dust and often too great a difference between the day and night temperature. The first is overcome largely by placing the plants which require much light in the brightest windows, and frequently turning them so that they will grow straight and symmetrical.

Hot dry air is the most serious difficulty of all, as it cannot be entirely overcome. Plants grown in such an atmosphere are tall and spindling, with few leaves. Give fresh air whenever possible, but never allow cold air to blow directly upon the plants. Hot, dry air also favors the attacks of red spider, the most insidious pest of house plants. To prevent its attacks and provide a better natural atmosphere, give as much moisture as possible. Keep a vessel of water upon the stove, that it may evaporate. In large windows set the pots in shallow trays containing an inch of clean sand to catch surplus water and furnish the atmospheric moisture. Syringe the plants often, especially the under side of the leaves, being careful not to wet open blossoms. Wash your plants frequently with soft water and soap. This treatment destroys scales and removes dust.

To prevent the plants from becoming chilled at night draw the blinds down behind them and place paper next to the glass. In extremely cold weather remove them from the window to a position nearer the source of heat. This seems like lots of work, but by the time very cold weather arrives you will be so attached to the plants that you will not mind the extra trouble.

From the above statement it can be readily seen why the kitchen gives such excellent results in growing plants. Why should we not grow plants in the kitchen windows? We are growing them in the house to brighten our daily lives, and since the housekeeper must perforce spend much of her time in the kitchen, it should be the brightest with blossoms. Next in importance are dining or living rooms, and lastly the upper rooms.

Begin in June or July to start a window garden. Make cuttings of geranium, coleus, etc., and root them in damp sand. Young plants are more satisfactory than old plants, as a rule. However, old plants may be lifted, cut back, potted and if thoroughly watered and carefully looked after may become satisfactory house plants. Put in a shady place not swept by winds until root-growth starts, then gradually accustom them to the sun. Plants must be thoroughly established before they are brought into the house, otherwise much time is lost before they begin to bloom. Plants should be brought in at least two weeks before fires are started, in order to accustom them to their new conditions and prevent dropping of the leaves.

Glazed pots are best, as the ordinary porous pots dry out too fast. If these are not obtainable, use tin cans with a few nail holes punched in the bottoms. Paint them any desired color. Don't be afraid to use cans for fear they will look cheap, for you will find, if you try them, that your plants
will do better than in porous pots. A handsome plant is attractive in any kind of a pot.

As a potting soil use one-half rich black soil, one-fourth leaf mould from the woods or well rotted manure, and one-fourth clean, sharp sand. Heating the soil is a good practice as it destroys worms, grubs, fungi and weed seed. Never use finely sifted soil, but leave it a little coarse.

The soil should always be moist when used, but never wet. Make the soil firm around the plant and always leave a good space between its surface and the rim of the pot for holding water when it is poured on. Keep saucers under potted plants to catch the drainage of the pots; but do not keep the saucer filled with water because the soil will remain too wet. Always water the surface and allow it to run down through the ball of earth.

If the plant does not do well when the light and temperature are right, you may be reasonably sure more food is needed. Manure water of the color of weak tea is the best and safest anyone can use.

If earth worms are detected burrowing in the pots of earth they should be destroyed by an application of lime water.

Perfect cleanliness is essential and all dead leaves and withered flowers should be diligently removed.

With the proper selection of plants and attention to the general principle here outlined, it is possible to have a good window garden.

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