

Ornamental Horticulture

Gelsemium Sempervirens floro pleno.

That is a long name for a small flower. It is only a double flowered form of the common Yellow Jessamine. We mentioned it as being in bloom in November, in this department in the paper of December 19. The cold about Christmas must have checked its growth as we had almost no bloom after that until the last of February. It is now blossoming more freely than it has ever before done, on our place.

The flowers are exceedingly beautiful, somewhat smaller than the single form but retaining all its fragrance. We do not understand why it has not become more generally popular.

Bignonia Capreolata.

This native evergreen vine deserves to be much more common in cultivation than it is. It is variously known in different localities as Cross vine, Trumpet flower, Quarter vine, etc. But by whatever name it is called it is, when in bloom, a thing of beauty. The color of the flowers is red, a single one looks rather dull, but a large tree covered with a sheet of blooms is a blaze of glory. As the vine is an evergreen and clings closely to any support we do not understand why it has not become more popular. Probably because it is a native and can be found growing wild in all the hammocks.

Ampelopsis Tricusidata.

This vine is always catalogued as A. Veitchii, and is commonly called Boston Ivy. It is a strong vigorous grower, clings closely to a wall, and is very useful for a screen during summer. The only objection to it is the fact that being deciduous, the leaves drop in the fall and only the bare branches are left during the winter. We have one planted at a corner of our house. The gable end faces the northeast, this is so completely covered by the growth of the vine that in summer nothing but the leaves can be seen. The vine has also run around the corner and covered about half of the side of the house.

We have mentioned the vine to call attention to a curious difference in the growth of the vine this spring. On the side facing southeast the leaves are mostly out and many of them nearly full grown while on the end of the house facing northeast, less than a dozen twigs show any signs of growth and on these only one or two small leaves each are formed. The growth all comes from one set of roots, therefore it is very strange that the very slight difference in exposure to the sun should make so great a difference in the starting into growth.

Floral Department

Winter Blooming Plants.

There has been much discussion in regard to the most suitable plants for winter blooming in Florida.

Were the State entirely safe from cold, the ever blooming natives of the tropics would be the most satisfactory; but they are likely to get a check, some time during the twelve months that go to make a year.

Conspicuous among these are the Allemandas, Thunbergia Grandifloras, the tropical Bignonias, Aristolochias, Begonias, Cupheas, Plumbago-Capen-

sis and many others. These make a splendid show, in their season and well repay all the trouble it takes to grow them. They readily recover from the effects of occasional frosts, as the roots remain unhurt except during the very rare visitations of a blizzard. Many of the annuals are constant bloomers during a normal Florida winter. Zinnias, Marigold and Chinese pinks, notably. If the seed were sown at the same time as the early vegetables, for the northern markets, there would doubtless be a great show of their flowers during the winter. It is likely that the Nasturtium, which does its best in light soils would flourish. Its profusion of foliage and continuous and brilliant bloom would render it most desirable. Both flowers and seed vessels are useful as well as ornamental. The Cosmos is a late bloomer in northern latitudes, and would be apt to continue till far into the winter. The Salvia is another late bloomer. It should be planted in masses. Few annuals equal it in beauty. Its flowers are a scarlet glory for months.

The ubiquitous phlox is not to be despised, because it springs up all unbidden in unexpected places, and flashes its red lights—not as a danger signal; but for joy that nowhere else is it, so much at home, as in "The Land of Flowers."

Mrs. Jennie S. Perkins.
Washington, D. C.

Diseases of Roses.

In last week's Agriculturist Rev. Aono Theime mentions the fact that he is having trouble with his roses, but does not describe any of the diseases which have attacked them. It is, of course impossible to doctor a disease when you have not the least idea what is the matter. In over 20 years experience with roses in Florida, we have had no serious trouble from disease. Each year we have more or less "black spot," a form of fungus which causes black spots to appear on the leaves, but they have never been numerous enough to seriously injure the plants. Hybrid Perpetuals are also quite liable to mildew in the northern states, florists usually dust the leaves with flowers or flour of sulphur. Probably Bordeaux mixture would be as good a remedy as could be found for all kinds of fungus diseases.

We do not think that the drouth is responsible for the disease. Fungus diseases are usually much worse in moist rainy weather. Of course, if the bushes are weakened by drouth, they are more susceptible to the attacks of disease. We should be glad to have a detailed account of the diseases and the effect upon the bushes.

California Plant Notes.

These notes, from the Florist's Exchange, contain descriptions of plants which deserve to be more generally known and cultivated in this state. Senecio mikanioides called German Ivy, was described in this department several years ago. It is nearly hardy in this part of the state, in ordinary winters, is always beautiful and when in bloom is remarkably showy.

Senecio Mikanioides, German ivy, now in full bloom, is one of our most attractive winter-blooming vines. If given room and some attention, it

covers a large space in one summer and looks like a fountain of golden-colored water in winter. When done blooming if cut back severely the plant presents a neater appearance.

Chelone Glabra is one of our attractive evergreen, perpetual blooming shrubs; light green in color both foliage and stems. The white flowers are born in great profusion at all seasons of the year. It makes a beautiful background for dark-colored shrubs bearing red flowers. It is easily propagated from cuttings.

The three members of the Sterulia family of plants—trees, perhaps, would be more correct—as they grow here are so diverse in character that when seen out of flower few people would suspect they were in any way related. S. diversifolia does not show any diversity in foliage after it passes out of its seedling stage of development. As a street tree it is one of the most desirable, where the soil is a deep sandy loam, but when planted where the subsoil is hard pan or stony or gravelly it soon becomes diseased, and dies. The trunk is the most symmetrical in form of any tree the writer knows anything about. The roots, growing as they do, directly down, do not break up sidewalks and curbing, as do those trees whose roots grow in a horizontal direction.

S. acerfolia (Australian flame tree) maintains its leaf characteristics throughout its life. In its young state, growing in the open ground, it looks so nearly like Aralia quercifolia that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other. This tree when seen in full bloom is a sight never to be forgotten. About the time that the flower spikes appear it sheds its leaves. The scarlet blossoms are borne on stems 12 to 18 inches long, of a bright red color, too, though not so brilliant as the bloom. A peculiarity of this tree is, that it has no set time to flower; any time from June to November it is likely to do so, and some years not at all. Freezing will affect the young growth and injure the flowering buds, but three consecutive favorable seasons do not seem to change its erratic disposition. There are fine specimens here two feet diameter at base and fifty feet

high. Both varieties will stand eight degrees of frost without injury.

The other variety, S. platanifolia, is deciduous. When planted in a deep, rich soil and given room for development, it is a magnificent tree. The flowers appear in early summer, though not every year, in the greatest profusion in panicles two feet long. They are almost white, striped pink and yellow, curiously twisted. In this respect they differ from the symmetrical cup-shaped bloom of the two varieties before named. So also the seed vessels differ greatly. Those of the first two have a tightly-closed hard, brown-colored shell; those of the last are a soft clump of leaves containing perhaps a half ounce of fluid until the seeds are ripe, when this capsule bursts open and the seed is fast to the mid-rib of these leaves.

None of these subjects is drought-resistant in the sense that the term is used.

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