

summer and allowed to remain in their pots till the approach of winter. When the time comes for the housing of the greenhouse stock, perhaps there is not room inside the house for the whole, in consequence of which some other favourites that had taken their place during the summer months are allowed to remain in the house for the winter season. Then the outside plants are looked over, and the worst are left outside (these are the poor sufferers), they are taken and planted as soon as convenient.

It is not giving such plants a fair chance to turn them out for the winter after they have completed their growth in pots. The consequence of such folly is simply that the plants so treated die; whereas, had they been planted out in the spring they would have become established and would suffer but little the following winter. It is not by planting large old specimens that the greatest success is obtained in this matter; but rather by planting young healthy plants. This should be done as early in the season as possible, so that the plants will get thoroughly established the first year. By planting small specimens they can be protected the first two or three years in case of severe weather, and when they have attained some size will not require protection in winter.

The selection which I here note down are all growing outside in the Royal Gardens, Kew, and are perfectly healthy specimens:—*Azara integrifolia variegata*, native of Chili; *Aloysia citriodora*, the scented verbena; *Berberidopsis corallina*, *Berberis Nepalensis*, *Benthamia fragifera*, *Colletia horrida*, very curious and interesting; *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Cistus montpelienis*, *Carsima quinqueferis*, *Clianthus punicens*, well set with flower; *Drimys aromatica*, *Euonymus macrophylla*, *E. Japonica latifolius albus*, *E. radicans variegata*, *E. Japonica aureus variegata*, *Eugenia Americana*, *Eurybia latifolia variegata*, *E. Forsterii*, *Eleagnus pungens variegata*, *Fabiana imbricata*, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, *Ilex latifolia*, *I. balearica*, *Olea Europæa*, *O. fragrans*, *Osmanthus ilicifolius*, *Parochetus Thunbergia variegata*, *Schotia speciosa*, *Veronica angustifolia*, *V. decussata*, *V. Imperialis*, *V. lobelioides*, *V. Kermesina*, *Vitis tricuspidata*.

PETUNIAS FOR CONSERVATORY DECORATION.

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THE double and single-flowering Petunias are exceedingly useful and very effective in the conservatory during the summer season, when they are nicely grown, and I should like to offer a few remarks on their proper management. As a rule, they are not met with in first-rate condition, mainly owing to their being neglected during the early stages of growth, and frequently placed too far from the glass. They are certainly not difficult to manage, and by commencing at

May.

the present moment with small well-established plants, they may be had in splendid condition towards the end of the summer, when they will be found of special service, as the number of flowering plants adapted for decorative purposes is not at that period by any means large.

In commencing with a stock of young plants, furnished with one or two stems only, pinch them back to within four or five joints of the base, and when the young shoots are about an inch in length, shift into five-inch pots. Those which have been stopped already and have started into growth again, may be repotted at once. After the first shift, place them in a frame or greenhouse, the temperature of which is maintained at or about 60°, and sprinkle the foliage once or twice a day, according to the weather. When they have recovered from the shift, and the side-shoots have attained a length of from five to six joints, pinch them all back to about three or four joints each. These will soon break again, and when the young shoots are half an inch in length, remove the plants to a cold frame, and admit very little air for the first two or three days. After a fortnight's stay in the cold frame, shift the whole stock into the blooming-pots, the exact size of which must be determined by the cultivator; but, for general decorative purposes, the sizes known as six and eight inch are the most suitable.

In all stages of growth keep them as close to the glass as circumstances will permit, and after the first few days of the stay in the cold frame, ventilate freely to promote a dwarf and stocky growth; indeed, at this stage the lights may be drawn off altogether during the day, whenever the weather is sufficiently favourable to admit of its being done with safety. After the last shift, the shoots must be trained out regularly in the usual way, to promote the formation of well-proportioned specimens.

Syringe once or twice a day, but, as a rule, once will be sufficient to keep them free from dust and insects. If, however, greenfly and thrips make their appearance, fumigate before they are able to commit any mischief. There is not much fear of either of these pests mustering in sufficient force to do any harm, if the plants are properly supplied with water, and syringed overhead in the manner here suggested. Clean soft water should be used until the pots in which the specimens are to flower are well filled with roots, and then weak liquid manure may be substituted for it, and its use continued throughout the season.

There is no better compost than a mixture of two parts turfy loam, and one part of decayed manure and leaf-mould. The varieties grown at Ealing Park are mostly selected from seedlings of the previous year. Those who prefer growing named varieties may, of course, do so, but I do not feel justified in occupying the space necessary to give a list. At all events, those who want one cannot do better than refer to the "Garden Oracle."
