

**PLANT CULTURE; A WORKING
HANDBOOK OF EVERY DAY PRACTICE
FOR ALL WHO GROW FLOWERING
AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN THE
GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE**

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Plant culture; a working handbook of every day practice for all who grow flowering and ornamental plants in the garden and greenhouse by George W. Oliver

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A WORKING HAND-BOOK OF EVERY
DAY PRACTICE FOR
ALL WHO GROW FLOWERING AND
ORNAMENTAL PLANTS
IN THE GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE

BY

GEORGE W. OLIVER

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late of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

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PREFACE.

In nearly all of the recent works of this nature, appearing in America, the subjects dealt with have been confined, more or less, to those plants that can be and are cultivated by commercial florists for profit, or by those who own conservatories. And while the present book includes all this class of information it has a far wider scope treating, as it does, on the care and management of a diversity of plants not touched upon by other writers, all equally necessary in the adornment of our gardens and homes and, for this purpose, as beautiful and interesting as those that generally receive the greatest attention from authors of most horticultural works. Divested of superfluous verbiage, and shorn of perplexing technicalities which tend to confuse, the cultural directions here given can be easily and successfully followed, the results contributing to the perfect enjoyment of "the purest of human pleasures," by some, and affording to others a lucrative occupation.

What I have given here are teachings gleaned and sifted from the experience of many years' work as a gardener and florist. The methods described are such as have been successfully practiced by me and can be safely relied on as up-to-date and thoroughly applicable to American conditions and requirements.

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While the notes have been made short, they will, nevertheless, in most cases, cover the essential points in the methods of raising and caring for the plants named, and be understood by the average reader as easily as if they had been dealt with in longer articles. Hitherto, the information available on the subjects treated upon has, for the most part, been widely scattered in numerous magazines and books, many of which are expensive; and it is often found necessary to search through a mass of technical details in order to find the required information. It is to be hoped that the present volume will, in great measure, reduce the difficulties referred to, and render the art of plant cultivation profitable and enjoyable to the many whose tastes are horticultural.

GEORGE W. OLIVER.

Washington, July, 1900.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It then outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data, including surveys and interviews.

3. The next section describes the results of the study, highlighting the key findings and their implications.

4. Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the research and a discussion of future directions.

5. The overall goal of this research is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence consumer behavior.

6. This information is crucial for businesses looking to improve their marketing strategies and better serve their customers.

7. The study also identifies several areas where further research is needed to address the remaining questions.

8. By sharing these findings, we hope to contribute to the broader academic and practical discourse on consumer behavior.

9. The data presented here is based on a representative sample of consumers and is intended to provide a general overview.

10. For more detailed information, please refer to the full report and the accompanying data tables.

11. The research was conducted over a period of six months, during which time we collected and analyzed a large volume of data.

12. We are grateful to the participants who took the time to complete the surveys and interviews, as well as to the research assistants who supported the study.

13. The findings presented in this document are the result of a rigorous and systematic research process.

14. We believe that these results will be valuable to a wide range of stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

15. The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, and we are indebted to them for their support.

16. The authors would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the study:

17. Dr. Jane Smith, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley.

18. Dr. John Doe, Department of Marketing, Stanford University.

Stove and Greenhouse Plants.

ABUTILON—Several of the varieties having ornamental foliage, such as *A. Darwini tessellatum*, *A. Sellonianum marmoratum*, *A. vexillarium* and *Eclipse*, are good bedding plants. The last two are useful for vases and boxes. All of them have the leaves blotched with yellow. *Souvenir de Bonn* and *Savitzil* are variegated with white. Cuttings are rooted in the Fall, or may be taken in early Spring from lifted and cut back plants. The varieties grown for their flowers are numerous; the colors are pink, red, white and yellow. They are everblooming.

ACACIA—Seedlings of *Acacias* are not to be recommended for small flowering plants, on account of their lanky growth. Not only are plants from cuttings most floriferous, but they are easier trained to any desired shape. They should be taken from the half-ripened shoots during the month of June. A peatty soil mixed with half sand should be used, as the roots will take nourishment from it immediately they are formed. Make the cuttings with a sharp knife and take off the leaves from the part which is to go in the soil with a small pair of sharp scissors. The pots for rooting the cuttings in should be prepared carefully—rough crocks in the bottom and finer above, until they are filled to within two inches of the rim. The remaining space should be filled with finely sifted peat and sand in equal parts topped off with pure sand. Dibble in the cuttings to the depth of about an inch and not too crowded. They must be kept "close" during the operation of rooting, and as cool as possible. The pots, which may be plunged in sand, should be covered with a movable glass structure. A good plan is to have two sets of those hand-light or bell-glasses, and instead of wiping the moisture from them daily, remove the wet ones and slip over them those which are dry. After the first watering the cuttings will take but little more during the process of rooting; when they do require it the foliage should be allowed to dry before putting back the covers. *Acacia Ricana* is perhaps the finest greenhouse species for very large plants. *A. pubescens*, *A. Drummondii* and *A. paradoxa* are all good greenhouse species, flowering well on moderate-sized specimens. Sandy loam, to which a goodly quantity of leaf soil or peat is added, will suit them. Firm potting and good drainage are necessary. Plunge the plants outside during Summer, and give liberal supplies of water when the plants are well established.

ACALYPHA HISPIDA—Large plants in pots are speedily produced by using a goodly quantity of bone meal in the soil. Grow in a high temperature. If tall plants are wanted, keep nipping out the flower spikes as they appear in the axils of the leaves. When the plant reaches the desired height nip out the ends of the shoots; this will cause branching.

ADAPANTHUS UMBELLATUS—The African blue Lily is a desirable plant for cool greenhouses, and ornamental either in or out of bloom. In general appearance it resembles the *Imantophyllum*, but the flowers