

IN THE GREENHOUSE

August and September are very important months for the sowing of spring flowers for the warm or frost free greenhouse, or the potting of hardy winter flowering pansies which should have been sown in June or July, why not a few of these in pots for the cold greenhouse, always bearing in mind the fact that they will flower outside in winter, so all you will be doing will be keeping the rain and snow off the plants, so keep the ventilators open please. This also applies to rock plants, bulbs and all hardy annuals, primroses, polyanthus, etc. Sow spring Schyzanthus, and why not try a few Cyclamen, but they require fifteen months at least to make up to good flowering plants. They all revel in a temperature of 40-45 °F. Ready to use potting compost is very expensive so why not mix your own? A good general purpose mix is (in bulk) two parts peat, one part soil and enough grit for perlite to show clearly. Buy a small bale of peat, sift your soil with a half inch sieve, spread it out on a hard surface and sterilise it by applying boiling water through a watering can with a rose (peat is already sterile). Add a tablespoonful of fertiliser or bone meal to a bushel of mix and stir thoroughly.

Use good top-spit garden soil or molehills or even road sidings and you will have a mix at half the price. Even at that price it is dear but it is a lovely hobby.

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