

1927

## Window Boxes

Gladys Parker  
*Iowa State College*

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### Recommended Citation

Parker, Gladys (1927) "Window Boxes," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 7 : No. 10 , Article 12.  
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol7/iss10/12>

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## Window Boxes

By Gladys Parker

**W**INDOW boxes add much to the beauty of any home and at this time of the year many people are starting plants and arranging window boxes. The beauty of the window box depends upon the selection and arrangement of the plants, also upon the construction of the box and the quality of the soil.

The window box should never be so large that it is difficult to handle. If a long one is necessary it is best to build it in units of not more than six feet long. The box should be at least six inches deep and eight to twelve inches wide.

Cypress is the most durable wood for window boxes. Many boxes are constructed with little thought of the wood and after the first season the box is pretty well rotted. Plants will do much better in boxes that have straight instead of sloping sides. Draining must be provided for and can be done by drilling several half-inch holes in the bottom of the box. These holes

should be covered with pieces of broken crockery or stones before filling the box with soil.

Soil for the window box is best made of a mixture of three parts garden loam, one part of leaf-mold, one part of sand and one part of well rotted manure. The leaf mold can be secured in the woods and the well-rotted manure can be prepared by stacking manure up so that water can soak through it. It should be left piled until is through heating, otherwise it would rot the plants. If it is inconvenient to have the well rotted manure, bone meal can be substituted.

In selecting plants for the window box the first thing to consider is the location of the box. Plants that will do well in the sun perhaps could not stand the absence of sunlight.

Two to four kinds of plants in one box are sufficient to secure an artistic effect. A box of petunias or a box of dwarf and climbing nasturtiums are quite beautiful. Other combinations

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