

The whole of the Australian species succeed in smaller pots than the species previously named. *Diuris* prefers a rather strong loam, *Thelymitra* a sandy fibrous soil, and *Pterostylis* soil off a basaltic formation, if attainable. A brick pit with a south-eastern aspect, free from frost, suits them well. They do not require so much water as many other terrestrial orchids.

There are many other very beautiful genera found in Australia; but, as many have proved almost uncultivable, I have not noticed them. Nothing can be more interesting than a collection of these beautiful plants; they are easy of introduction, and with little attention will well repay the cultivator for the trouble bestowed upon them.

III. Note on one of the Hybrids between the Muscat of Alexandria and the Trouvéren Muscat, which promises a supply of grapes all the year round. By JOHN STANDISH, Royal Nursery Ascot, Berks.

WHEN my "Hints on Hybridizing Fruits" were published in the first volume of the New Series of this Journal, page 135, I had not witnessed the extraordinary fertility of one of the hybrids there mentioned, and which has now received the name of the Royal Ascot. It has proved itself a perpetual bearer, forming bunches on every branch and lateral branch that it throws out, and can be made with the greatest ease to have ripe fruit all the year round. If, for example, a house filled entirely with this variety were started the first week in December, and, when the shoots were of sufficient length, thinned out so as to leave only enough for half a crop, they would break again, or throw out a quantity of laterals, when some more branches might be left, and, so vigorous is the plant, in six weeks again some more. These three partial crops would swell, so as to prolong the fruiting till the end of October, by which time the vines would want pruning in for forcing the next season; and what then remained could be cut, with a piece of the wood, and placed in bottles of water on the French plan. This house would give grapes from the beginning of June until Christmas.

Another house might be started in the middle of July, leaving again only half a crop, and so on as before, which would give grapes from January until the end of July. By adopting this plan, in two houses, grapes could be had all the year round without any difficulty; and should extra grapes be wanted for some

special purpose in any of the spring or winter months, it would merely be necessary to give the proper notice to the gardener before March in one year, to have any quantity of grapes in the winter or spring of the following year, without much trouble and at very little expense, as grapes grown from July until midwinter can be grown with half the expense of those produced from December to June. Young cuttings struck from this vine any time before March can be made to bear a good crop of fruit the following January, February, and March. Last May I planted a house with little plants not a foot high, out of four-inch pots; and they are now, at the beginning of December, bearing a nice crop of beautiful fruit, which will be ripe the second week in January—and these grown amongst pines under very disadvantageous circumstances.

It is curious that this grape, which is large, oval, and the blackest of all grapes, was raised from two white grapes, the female parent, the Muscat of Alexandria, having oval berries, while the male parent, the Trouvéren, has globose berries. It is still more curious that, when grafted on its male parent with globose berries, and on Graham's Muscat Muscadine, which has similar fruit, the berries have in both cases undergone a complete change of form in correspondence with that of the male parent, but without the slightest difference of colour.

This curious effect of the stock on the graft confirms some other reports of a similar nature, one of the most singular being one which has lately been recorded by Dr. Hogg, where the Marie Louise pear, grafted on three different stocks, gave three very different forms of fruit, one of which only could have been referred by the most practised pomologist to the parent plant*. The subject is one of extreme interest, and deserves a set of carefully conducted experiments by some one who has time and patience to follow it out.

IV. Preparing Lilies of the Valley for Forcing.

By Mr. W. EARLEY.

As it may not be very generally known that by a very simple mode of procedure the forcing-capabilities of this most deservedly

* [Dr. Hogg has kindly shown us the specimens, which he brought from the Rev. W. Kingsley's.—ED.]