

it is to remove the pollen from the staminate flowers to a piece of glass, and then, by means of a camel-hair brush, to transfer it to the stigmas of the pistillate ones. The Vermont Experimental Station, in giving the results of tests and experiments conducted by them, report, in Bulletin 70, page 18, that in ordinary musk-melon plants an average of eighty-three out of ninety three blossoms are perfect, and thus need no artificial pollination. Thus the labor of hand-fertilization of greenhouse crops is materially decreased from that which would be required if conditions were such as are given in the botanical descriptions.

To understand the modern requirements of this plant, something must be known of its origin and history. It is a native of Southern Asia, and has been grown for centuries in this region. From this district, it was introduced into America early in the colonization of this Continent, and in the Southern and Middle States, it found an environment in which it could thrive to perfection. It has also been introduced into nearly every country in the world, and is relished as a delicacy in cold countries and as an ordinary article of diet in more tropical ones. We see therefore, why this plant will thrive to perfection with little or no care in the South, and also why it requires an extreme amount of care and protection in districts North of the Niagara Peninsula.

In Ontario there are only two small districts in which melons are grown commercially. One is that well-known stretch of land at the North-Western end of Lake Ontario, between Burlington and Hamilton, which is known on Toronto and Montreal fruit markets as the Aldershot district. This district, about eight miles long and one mile wide, produces about sixty per

cent. of all the commercial melons in this Province. The other district is that surrounding the town of Leamington in Essex County. It might be well at this point to explain why the Aldershot district is so well suited to this special line of small fruit growing. In this section, almost every grower produces melons in large quantities, and although the crop is not one out of which fortunes can be sifted, yet it usually provides very fair remuneration for the careful man.

The district is protected on the North and West by the Niagara Escarpment, which shields it from hurricanes and hailstorms to a large extent. Lake Ontario to the South and East makes the climate very equable and moderate, and provides that humid atmosphere which is essential.

The soil varies from a light sand to a rich sandy loam, and the lighter types, when well supplied with humus, are especially suitable.

The soil upon which melons are to be grown should preferably have had a crop of rye plowed under early in the spring. The writer, in testing rye, rape, and hairy vetch as cover crops for melon land, has found that the vetch is very likely to raise the nitrogen content of the soil to such an extent that too rank a vine will be produced, and a consequent decrease in crop will be noticed. Rape does not produce the same amount of fibre and humus as does rye, and the latter crop has been proven in actual test to be most suitable for sowing year after year on melon land. The soil must be of such a type that it will warm up early in the spring and this necessitates either natural or artificial drainage.

It is very essential that the land be plowed as early as possible in the spring and that light cultivation be continued incessantly until the plants are set out.