

over, the plants should be thinned out, leaving only the three strongest. The ground is now kept thoroughly cultivated to conserve moisture and to destroy weeds. The vines may be moved from time to time when young to start them in the direction which will cover the ground best with the least crowding. When the vines are crowded the melons do not set well. To obtain the most uniform and best melons, pieces of boards or stones should be placed under each to keep it off the ground. The melons should also be turned gradually, not exposing a part which has been underneath at once to the sun, but turning part way at a time.

Muskmelons are ripe when they break easily from the vine. When shipping them long distances, growers sometimes pick them a day or two before they have reached this stage, but unless one has had considerable experience it is best to leave them until they are ripe, as if picked much too soon they will not mature properly.

*Watermelons.*—The watermelon is a native of Africa, hence it also requires great heat to grow it well. As watermelons are obtained from the United States early in the season at comparatively low prices, there is not the same inducement to force them in Canada, though they can be forced if desired. For field culture about the same methods are adopted as for muskmelons. The hills for watermelons should be farther apart than for muskmelons, from seven to nine feet being a fair distance. It is much more difficult to tell when a watermelon is ripe than it is a muskmelon; in fact, there is no satisfactory method for telling, though after one has harvested many melons one can get fairly expert. Some indications of ripeness are the cracking of the flesh under slight pressure, the drying up of the tendril nearest the melon, a clear sound when the melon is clumped as opposed to a dull sound when green. These indications, which are by no means accurate, together with the general appearance of the melon, help to decide on what melons to harvest.

*Insects.*—In addition to cutworms already mentioned, the melons are often injured by the striped cucumber beetle. To overcome this the leaves should be kept covered with Paris green mixed with land plaster or lime in the proportion of one pound of the former to fifty pounds of the latter. Applications should be made every two days. Poisoned Bordeaux mixture made in the proportion of four pounds bluestone, four ounces Paris green, four pounds lime, and forty gallons of water is also a good remedy for this insect, and also for the flea beetle, a very small, black hopping insect which often does much injury.

Grasshoppers are sometimes troublesome, eating pieces out of the melons and disfiguring them. The poisoned bran scattered on the ground where they can get at it, as recommended for cutworms, will kill them.

*Diseases.*—There are several diseases which affect muskmelons, among these being the mildew or blight, the alternaria, and the bacterial wilt. The two former can be checked by thorough application of Bordeaux mixture beginning early in July while the plants are still healthy looking, and continuing at intervals of from ten days to two weeks throughout the season. There is no good remedy known for the wilt.