

Cover with good rich loamy soil to a depth of 4 or 5 inches, and pack it firm. Allow this to stand for a few days to heat up and then rake the bed smooth, when it will be ready to receive the seed. Where a hot-bed is used, the seed may be sown in rows from 4 to 6 inches apart, or broadcast, having previously been mixed with ashes or corn-meal so as to ensure more evenness in sowing. If sown broadcast the surface should afterwards be pressed firmly by placing a board about one foot wide and nearly the length of the bed, on the surface of the newly-sown ground, and walking over it, then move the board so as to press another foot, and so on, until the whole bed is evenly pressed. Then cover with frames either glazed or covered with cotton to protect from cold and frost and sprinkle the surface often enough with water or weak liquid manure to keep it moist. Germination takes place in about ten days, and in from twenty to thirty days after the plants appear, they should be large enough to transplant.

Where the seed is sown in cold frames or open beds, a sheltered position is desirable, with a southern exposure. Upon the plot selected, brush is usually burnt until the soil is made hot enough to kill the seeds of grass and weeds near the surface. When the soil has thus been baked to the depth of about half an inch and the bed has cooled, the surface is stirred with hoe or spade to the depth of 2 or 3 inches. Well-rotted manure is then spread over the ground and raked and worked until it has become thoroughly mixed, and the whole made mellow and fine. Mix carefully one tablespoonful of seed with about a quart of ashes and sow broadcast. This quantity is sufficient for a bed ten feet square, and should furnish plants enough for an acre of land. Brush or rake the seed in very lightly and use a light roller to make the surface compact, smooth and even, or press the surface smooth with a board in the manner recommended for the sowing in hot-beds. Use cotton covered frames or cover with light brush thick enough to afford some shade to the young plants and to protect them from drying winds, and water from time to time as needed to keep the ground moist. Keep the plants free from weeds and thin them out where necessary to avoid crowding. Sometimes the seed is sprouted before sowing. This may be done by mixing it with some fine mould and placing it near a stove or in some other warm place and keeping it moist for four or five days. Sow it as soon as it can be seen to have sprouted. By adopting this plan some time may be saved, but it is not generally recommended. The time of sowing will vary in different localities, ranging in Canada from the 1st to the 15th of April, and the young plants will be ready to put out from the 25th of May to the 10th of June. The seed bed should be large enough to permit of a sufficient number of plants of the same size being taken from it to complete the planting of the desired area at one operation, so that the subsequent growth may be even and regular. There should also be a surplus left sufficient to fill the vacancies caused by failure.

#### PLANTING.

The plants are usually put out in rows about 4 feet apart and from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in the rows. Where practicable, the rows