

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 thumped 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.

As watermelons are usually not grown in hot-beds as are the muskmelons, it is important to grow the earliest varieties so as to have a large proportion of the crop ripen. Three of the most reliable are Cole Early, Phinney Early, and Peerless, or Ice Cream. The last is the best in quality.

*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.

*Muskmelons in greenhouses.*—While muskmelons are grown only to a very limited extent in greenhouses in America this has long been a popular method in Great Britain and special varieties have been developed there for this purpose. There is, however, an increasing number of growers devoting their attention to this crop in this country, melons being grown during the early part of summer before the outside crop is ready. Seed is sown early in March in small pots and transplanted direct to the beds in about a month afterwards, or they may be transplanted from the original three-inch to six-inch pots, if one is not ready to plant. Melons must not be checked in their growth, especially while in pots. They need rich soil for best results and one that has an abundance of humus in it, hence it should contain a liberal proportion of well-rotted manure.

If benches are used where there is only room for one row, the plants may be set about eighteen inches apart. In wide beds or benches, rows should be about three feet apart with the plants eighteen inches to two feet apart in the rows. Better success is usually obtained by having the plants fairly close as described with about three melons per plant, than by putting them at wider distances and trying to get more melons. The plants are kept growing vigorously by keeping the greenhouse warm though well ventilated, and the soil and air moist. The surface of the soil should be kept well cultivated. A temperature of from 75° to 95° F. in the daytime, and from 65° to 70° F. at night makes a good range. The vines should be supported on a trellis so that the laterals can be well distributed, and care in tying is necessary so that the stems will not be cut. One stem is taken to the top of the trellis and then pinched off at the top. Laterals on which the female or pistillate flowers appear will be thrown out. It is desirable to have pistillate flowers on as many laterals as possible ready for pollinating at the same time, as if one fruit gets ahead of the others the latter do not usually do well. The flowers must be hand-pollinated to ensure a good setting of fruit. There are two kinds of flowers borne on the plant, the staminate, the first to appear, which bears pollen but never sets fruit, and the pistillate which may be readily distinguished by the swelling, or undeveloped melon, at the base. These usually appear on the laterals. The pollen is taken from the staminate flowers and applied to the stigma of the pistillate. When melons begin to swell after pollination has taken place, the tips of the laterals are pinched off one joint beyond the melon.

The Montreal melon succeeds very well under glass, and is one of the best varieties for this purpose. Early Hackensack is also good. Netted Gem, or Rocky Ford, is a small melon which yields well. Emerald Gem and Paul Rose are also good small ones. One of the English varieties which has succeeded better than some others is the Blenheim Orange. Sutton Superlative is also good.