

FRAMES FOR HOT-BEDS.

AS stated recently, the time is near for beginning hot-bed work, and as the "frame" must first be prepared it may be as well perhaps to explain how it is made. Common boards and a sash will answer all purposes. Any one with a square, saw and hammer, can construct it for himself. The frame may be from one to four sash in length, the latter being about what can be made from 14 ft boards. The most suitable width to use without waste is 20 inches; allow two for the back of the frame making it 20 inches high, which gives sufficient pitch to the roof to shed rain

ready for use.

Pits for hot-beds are made by taking out the soil to a certain depth and walling up the sides with boards or bricks. On top of the wall, place a wooden plate upon which the sash is to slide. The advantages of a pit are manifold. In the first place filled with manure in the spring it forms the hot-bed. Afterward when the manure is taken out it is a capital place to "summer over" many plants which do not do well exposed to hot, dry winds. Then in the fall it is just the place to grow chrysanthemums, and all winter with proper protection many half-hardy plants can be nicely kept in it. Tough prairie sod may be used for the sides with good effect, provided the land is low and the pit liable to collect water. In the engravings are still other

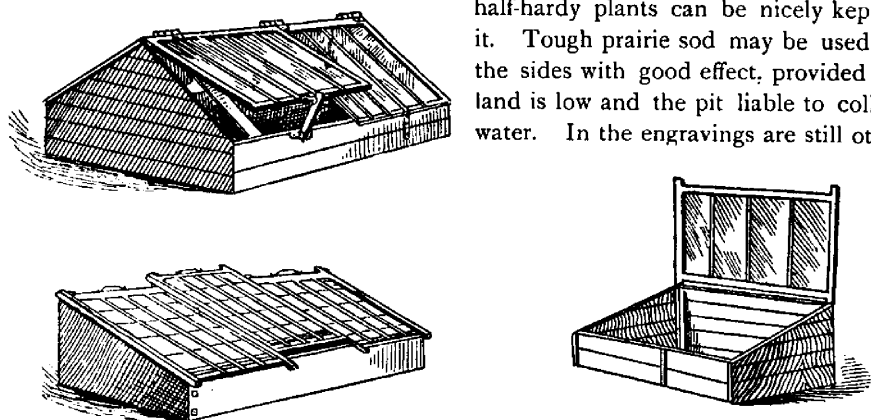


FIG. 1078.—HOT-BED FRAMES.

and collect the rays of the sun. Purchase the sash ready-made from the manufacturers, having it 6 ft long, 3 feet wide, and $\frac{1}{2}$ thick. To make a four sash frame then, we will want four 10 inch boards 14 feet long, one of which must be cut in two equal parts to form the end pieces. Besides this, to secure a strong frame it is better to have at each corner a piece of 2x4 scantling, to which the boards are nailed. Let the end boards project 2 inches above the side pieces to hold the sash in place. Then fasten a strip 3 inches wide and 1 inch thick to each side and to the upper end on a level with the top and bottom boards. This forms a slide upon which the sash rests. Thus we have a homely frame

styles of frames, which for certain purposes will be found very useful. For example, the upper one shows a span shape; that is, it has sash slanting each way and hinged at the top. Such a miniature greenhouse, for summer use, will be found convenient for growing Chinese primroses, cinerarias, calceolarias, cyclamen and similar plants, even azaleas, provided there is height enough, will do finely. In the lower right hand corner is a very modest affair and just the thing to construct for the children's garden. With it they may go through the performances of their elders, and thus find innocent employment, and cultivate a love for flowers and gardening.—Orange Judd Farmer.