

PREPARING MANURE FOR HOT BEDS.
—Fresh stable manure only, not exceeding six weeks old, is suitable for the purpose. Turn it over into a compact heap, protected from heavy rains or snow; allow it to remain so for about eight days, when it should be made up into the requisite form to suit the frame. If there is a scarcity of manure, use with it one-half fresh tanner's bark. Egg Plant seed requires a strong heat to make it vegetate; for such, the hot material will require to be two feet thick. Where the ground is quite dry, a very good method is to dig a space about eighteen inches deep, and put the manure therein—tramp it firmly and evenly,—place thereon the frame and sash—put it in the rich earth, and, in about four days, sow the seed, having previously stirred the earth freely, to destroy any seeds or weeds therein.

NEW METHOD OF GROWING CELERY.

In Nova Scotia this agreeable and healthy vegetable is too much confined to the tables of the wealthy. There is no reason why every farmer should not have his annual supply of celery to grace his winter meals, and the same may be said of asparagus and other early spring vegetables, which ought to be grown upon every farm. The following method of growing celery is recommended in the New York Horticulturist as a very successful one. It should suit equally well with us, only it may be necessary to take up the crop in the fall, and store it away in a frost proof cellar instead of leaving it in the ground as recommended:—

“To prepare a bed, we measure off, say six to twelve feet wide, and run this width as long as convenient; then throw out on each side the soil to the depth of six to nine inches, and fill up the trench nearly to its surface with thoroughly decomposed manure, and start at one end and thoroughly incorporate soil and manure together; plant out the plants say nine inches by twelve on this surface, and thoroughly soak the whole with water; if the weather is very hot, shade for a few days.

“Form an embankment twelve inches high all around this trench, and keep it constantly saturated with water. If manure water, so much the better. Have not got it? Then put guano in the water and make it; for depend upon it, ‘Good things come out of good conditions.’ As the plants grow, keep them loosely tied up with bass matting, and rub off all the young suckers that grow out at the base of the leaves. The very small leaves, or stems at the bottom of the plant, should be taken off also; this facilitates the removal, and enables you to watch the growth of suckers, which if left on would waste the substance and deteriorate the growth. You will remember the trench must not be allowed to become dry. It should be always like what the little boys call ‘puddle’.

If proper attention is paid to this point, and also to planting it out early, celery can be grown to a very large size before the month of November. It should not be earthed up at all till about three weeks before it is required for use. Four weeks' time at the utmost, will blanch it as white as a lily. In

order to blanch it, of course the soil from the sides is thrown between the plants and nearly up to the tops of the leaves. So soon as the leaves fall from the trees, we collect them and cover these beds *entirely all over*, about twelve or eighteen inches thick, placing over them a few corn stalks to prevent the wind blowing the leaves away. From these beds you can dig sweet, crisp celery all the winter, not a particle of frost near it; and in April and May we often see the white stems pushing up through the leaves far better in every respect than any celery you can get in the fall. We have seen single sticks of celery grown this way, after being washed and dressed for table, weigh **EIGHT POUNDS.**

CULTIVATION OF THE STRAWBERRY.

To secure the best results in the cultivation of this plant, a thorough preparation of the soil is necessary. I often hear people say the strawberry will not grow on their ground, and invariably find the difficulty to be the hard packing of the soil. In soils of an adhesive nature, a mechanical change must be made by adding manure, composed of vegetable substance. Concentrated fertilizers have little or no value for this purpose. A well rotted compost of muck and barn-yard manure will have the desired effect, and whatever can be done to make the soil lighter is especially indicated for the strawberry. Nearly all soils will be much improved by deep working. Trenching with the spade is the most essential, but for a large area, the subsoil plow will do the work cheaper. The ground should be plowed twice in opposite directions, the subsoil plow following the common plow in each furrow both ways. The deep stirring of the soil will admit a supply of air and moisture so necessary for the growth of this plant.

It is of but temporary benefit to stir a strong soil, unless something is put into it to keep it open. I have met with good success in the use of leaf mould, and can recommend a compost of equal parts of leaf mould, swamp muck and barn-yard manure—the compost to be applied the fall before planting, and plowed in. I have grown at the rate of 200 bushels per acre of Wilson's Seedling, by using nothing but a heavy dressing of leaf mould and wood ashes.

In regard to system of cultivation, and choice varieties, doctors differ. I think the Wilson's Albany the most profitable market variety yet known. The *Triomphe de Gand* is a fine fruit, but produces from one-third to one-half less fruit than the Wilson, and will prove a profitable market variety where they will bring a correspondingly higher price. The *Jenny Lind* has been recommended by some for an early variety, but with me has not been enough earlier to make it any object. Fruit good and fair size, but will not produce half as much as the Wilson.

If the hill system is desired, the rows may be 2½ feet apart, and the plants set out 20 inches from each other in the rows, allowing each plant to strike a runner between, leaving the plants ten inches asunder in the rows. If the horse hoe or cultivator is used, a greater distance between the rows will be required. My experience is that these implements disturb the roots of the plants too much, and that the hand hoe should be substituted in their place.

The *Triomphe* will hardly be successful under any other than the hill system; they stand the drought well, and with me are quite hardy. The Wilson will exhaust themselves in one season whatever system is adopted, which is no objection with me, as I prefer to start a new plantation every year. I have planted the Wilson in rows 5 feet apart, and set the plants 2 feet asunder in the rows, allowing the runners to take possession of the ground, except an alley between the rows. Where the soil is heavily manured and deeply worked, a large crop may be obtained. Mulching should be done in the fall, and may remain on till the crop is gathered. Straw is the best protection, but must be thrashed clean. I have seen crops nearly ruined from scattering seed. Declare war against all weeds, work the soil deep and manure well, and success is certain.—I. BASSET, in Cultivator.

CULTIVATION OF YOUNG ORCHARDS.

We have noticed a very decided difference, plain to be seen by the most casual observer, between the orchards that have been cultivated and those that are sowed down to grass. Let any one travel through Dodge county, Wisconsin, with an unprejudiced mind, and he cannot fail to become convinced that, at least in this part of the Northwest, it is necessary to cultivate young orchards to get a thrifty vigorous growth. Here is a farmer whose garden is beside his orchard. Orchard in grass, trees not over half the size of those in the garden. Trees, some a dozen years old, and land kept highly manured in both cases. Trees in the garden bear liberally, while those in the orchard give their owner very little fruit. Those growing in the grass looking sickly and half dead, while those in the garden look healthy and thrifty. If you pass westward, to his next neighbour, you find an exactly parallel case. There are two orchards, belonging to two neighbours, not eighty rods apart. One is thrifty and vigorous, giving liberal crops of fruit; the other looks half starved and stunted, and many trees are dying. The former has been kept cultivated—the latter is sowed to grass. We believe a young orchard needs cultivation just as much as a field of corn.—F., in Cultivator.

GLEANINGS.

RIVER FISHERIES AND GAME PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.—At a public meeting held in the Province Building on Monday evening, the old Society for the preservation of game was revived and remodelled under the title of “The River Fisheries and Game Protection Association.” The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society:—President. Capt. Chearnley, Vice Presidents. Capt. Hardy, R.A., and Jas. Thomson, Esq.; Treasurer, W. Silver, Esq.; Secretary, J.H. Duvar, Esq. Council—Messrs. W.M. Harrington, George Piers, Colonel Clifford, R.A., Capt. Clarke, A D C.; Messrs. Finlay, Dalklock, Downs, Corbellis, 17th Regt., and Jessop, R. A.—Colonist.