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REMARKS

ON THE

Cultivation of Vegetables.

In making out the Vegetable Seed List, which will be found very complete, I have appended a few brief directions having reference to the time for sowing and general cultivation of the different varieties.

What is essential to the production of fine Vegetables is the proper tillage of the ground. Nothing can supersede the advantages accruing from deep culture. Where the spade is used, the ground should be dug from twelve to sixteen inches deep, and a liberal supply of well rotted manure mixed with the soil: the expense will be amply repaid by the increased production. Good drainage is also of the greatest importance, and is, in fact, the first thing to be attended to. As a general rule, it is best to sow and to cultivate all crops in drills in preference to broadcast; the crop is tilled at less expense, for as soon as the seedling plant shows itself, the hoe can be applied between the rows and kept constantly at work during the growing season, for the purpose of eradicating the weeds and keeping the ground loose and porous.

Never work the ground when it is wet and heavy, as it renders it compact and lumpy during the whole season. By stirring the soil often during dry weather it will be better prepared to receive and retain moisture from the atmosphere.

The early maturity of many vegetables is of great importance to the cultivator; and for the promotion of this object it is necessary to start them in hot-beds very early in the spring; the trouble is not very great and much time is saved.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE MAKING AND MANAGEMENT OF HOT-BEDS.

A warm position should be selected, fully exposed to the sun, facing the east or south, and sheltered by a fence or hedge on the west and north. The soil should, if possible, be light and dry, as in this case the bed can be sunk a foot or more in the ground; but if damp or cold it should be built upon the surface.

Making the Bed.—A quantity of stable manure should be collected and thrown together in a heap, early in March. After remaining a few days it should be shaken up and turned over, and, after an interval of three or four days, repeat the same process. Let the manure remain three or four days in a heap, and then form the bed of any size