

The expense of cultivation and preparation for market is very considerable—say 40 to 60 dollars per acre.—Evs.]

The success of growing a crop of tobacco depends much upon early plantings. A matter of the first importance in its cultivation is to provide a sufficiency of young plants to set the crop, and in order to do this the planter must sow a bountiful supply of seed, as the young plants are subject to many casualties before a "good stand" is had. In this latitude, the time of seeding extends from the first of January to the first of April, and in ordinary seasons a bountiful supply can be obtained by sowing at any time during the periods alluded to. It is generally best, however, to sow as soon as the winter affords such a spell of weather as will allow a good preparation of the soil. New or forest land is preferable for plant-beds, and they are prepared by first burning the surface with brush or wood sufficiently to destroy the seed of any vegetation in the land, as grass or weeds. Beds prepared in the early part of the season require more burning than those at a later period. There is but little danger of burning too hard, however, at any time, as the plants generally succeed best upon the beds most thoroughly burned. After the beds are thus burnt and cooled off, they are dug up with a common sprouting hoe to a depth sufficient to afford the plant a loose soil in which to extend its roots. Care should be taken to leave the surface-soil as much on top, in the preparation of the bed, as possible, as the young plants will take a quicker and better growth. After the bed is well pulverized by hoeing and raking, the seed mixed with dry ashes are to be sowed as evenly as possible over the surface, at the rate of a common table spoonful to every 80 square yards (cubic measure), the bed lightly raked over or trod evenly with the feet and well covered with brush, on which there should be no leaves, and protected from the intrusion of stock. So soon as the young plants attain the size of a dollar the brush may be removed—if the weather is very dry the brush may be suffered to remain to advantage, and when removed taken off in the evening—with seasonable weather, the plants will soon be large enough for transplanting.

The land designed for the crop should be fertile—if not naturally so, should be made so by manuring. Any common manure will answer a valuable purpose, tobacco being a plant that delights in a rich soil. The land should be deeply and thoroughly ploughed, whenever practicable, in the fall or winter, and be subjected to the action of the frosts of winter. In this there is a twofold advantage: 1st, It destroys many insects that injure or destroy the young plant; 2d, It renders the land more friable and more easily cultivated. As the season approaches for planting out the weed (which is here from May to July), the land should be ploughed again and kept clean. It is then to be laid off with a plough three and a half feet one way and three

feet the other, and a small hill made in or on the check, as may be preferred, for the reception of the plant. The hill should be raised a little above the common level of the surface—the size of the hill being a matter of fancy with the planter, and not regarded as a matter of consequence in general. So soon as the plants have attained a sufficient size for transplanting, they may be drawn from the bed and planted out on the hills whenever there is moisture enough to prevent their dying. This is generally done after a shower; but, should the land be very wet, it is best to wait until it dries or settles some, as the plant will do best set when the land is not too wet. The plant, if it survives the transplanting, will soon commence growing, and requires no attention until the weeds and grass begin to make their appearance, and must be subdued by the plough and hoe. Should the earth become hard about the plant, the hill should be lightly scraped with a hoe. This will greatly promote the growth of the plant. When the plant becomes large enough, the bottom or plants leaves may be broken off. This is called pruning and the land may then be deeply and thoroughly ploughed, taking care not to injure the roots of the plant, and the plant hilled up by following with hoes, and throwing the loose soil around it. In land that has been kept clean, this may be the last ploughing; the weeds and bushes may be kept down with the hoe, should any appear.

Where the plant is large enough to top, the leaves nearest the ground are to be broken off and the bud taken out, leaving on the stalk the number designed for the plant. The number of leaves, as we remarked about the size of the hill, is much a matter of fancy; yet it has more to do in forming the future character of the tobacco than most planters seem apprised of. Experience has fully demonstrated that ten leaves are sufficient for a plant, and this is almost a universal practice among our best planters. The first plant, if the crop has grown off unevenly, may be placed to twelve leaves; the next topping may be ten, and as the season advances, the number may be lessened, as the appearance of the crops and season indicate. This will insure more uniformity in maturing of the crop, saves much labor, and adds to the value of the crop, making it uniform in quality. At this stage of the crop the care and attention of the planter is almost constantly required to keep off the worms and other insects which prey upon it, and in breaking off the suckers which soon appear upon the stalk at every leaf. Ample employment may be afforded to every idler about the premises.

As the plant approaches maturity, it begins to thicken, and assumes a stiff, slick, and motley appearance, which the most unpracticed eye will readily detect. Should the weather be favorable (viz.: dry), the first ripe plants may be permitted to remain standing until a sufficient quantity is matured to satisfy the planter in making a regular cutting. If, however, the