

sun is out bright, to open the upper end of the sash a little to let off the surplus heat; but less ventilation is needed with leaves than manure.

It is usual to sow the seed as soon as the soil is properly warmed; but in that case you get a very annoying crop of weeds. If not belated, we generally refrain from sowing the seed for a few days, during which time all the weed seed within an inch or so of the surface come up. We then take a sharp trowel or pushing hoe, and run it half an inch beneath the surface, cutting off all the weeds. In doing this, you should be careful to disturb the soil beneath as little as possible; for if you turn up a fresh surface, you will only insure another crop of weeds. If carefully done, comparatively few weeds will come up, much time and labor will be thus saved.

Let us next give our attention to a bed above ground, formed of manure and leaves, the latter constituting from a third to a half of the heap. The manure should be recent or green, long and short mixed together, excluding, however, every thing like corn stalks. Put down a layer of leaves and another of manure, beating it moderately firm with the fork. Continue this till the heap is completed, as directed for the first heap. The leaves should be a little moist, but this is not so important as in the first case, since the leaves will get moistened by the manure. If the heap is not formed under cover, it should be protected by boards. In a few days the heap will begin to ferment. At the end of a week it should be turned; and in doing this the leaves should be thoroughly mixed with the manure. Fermentation will now begin almost immediately. This should be allowed to go on for two or three days, when the heap should be turned again. By turning the heap two or three times, the heat is rendered more uniform and lasting. We have made tolerably good beds by laying the manure in a heap for a week, and then putting it directly in the beds, mixing it well at the time of doing so; but the heat has been unequal. The first plan is much the best.

The manure heap being ready, mark off the bed as before, and then spread the manure in layers about a foot thick, beating each layer moderately firm with the back of the fork. The bed should be about three feet thick. A bed made later may be thinner. As soon as the bed is formed the frame and sashes should be put on. We

may as well say that a lazy man should not be set to make an early hot-bed. Put some coarse litter around the frame on the outside so that it comes well up to the top. In this condition let the bed remain for a few days. The heat will not be so strong in such a bed as in one made entirely of manure; but it will be stronger than in that made of leaves, and will consequently need a little more ventilation until the heat becomes moderate and regular. If steam accumulates, it must be let off by raising the sash a little higher at the top; but care must be taken to let the sash down before the temperature has been too much reduced. At night the bed must be covered up snugly. At the end of two or three days the mould may be put in, as directed for the first bed. If the bed has settled unequally, it must be made even.

When the bed is made entirely of manure, the heap is prepared in the manner last described. The whole process of making the bed, indeed, is just the same. The heat, however, is usually more violent at first, and ventilation needs to be looked after carefully for a few days to prevent fire-fanging. Attention must be given chiefly to letting off the hot steam. If the heat is too great, it may be lessened by making holes in the bed with a hoe handle or a stick. When the violence of the heat has subsided, the mould may be put in as before directed. Persons who are used to making hot-beds often put in the mould as soon as the bed is formed; but, on the whole, it is better for the novice not to do so.

We shall next describe the method of making hot-beds in pits. We have already expressed a preference for these. The bed is easier to make, requires less material, retains its heat longer, and, on the whole, is less troublesome to attend to. The location should be a dry one. The pit may be a simple excavation; but it will be better, in many places, to make it a permanent fixture, and build the walls of brick. This may be done in two ways. First, build a wall three feet deep, the top being flush with the ground line, or an inch or two above it. On this set a frame fifteen inches high at the back and twelve inches in front. The other and better way is to continue the wall a foot above ground, and let the sashes rest on the top of it. To prevent the sashes from sagging, it will be necessary to put cross bars in the pit. The walls will be all the better for being built hollow