

water may fall promptly outside the bed, instead of gathering in the central part of the cloth. The best method is to make a double slope by supporting the cloth by a wooden bar, placed at the central part of the bed, in a longitudinal direction. In this way, the shelter has the shape of a tent with a double roof.

If it is also desired to prevent the attacks of insects, the cloth should be fixed to the frames by means of hooks. Instead of using hooks, however, the cloth may be rolled on rather heavy poles and unrolled according to the requirements. The weight of these poles is generally sufficient to insure close contact between the cloth and the frames.

Cloth shelters may be very useful in countries with temperate climates and where spring rains are not too frequent or too copious. They cannot be depended upon to give sufficient protection from very intense cold or very heavy rains.

However, cloth may, to a certain extent, be made waterproof by being impregnated with linseed oil. But this operation, whilst it makes cloth impervious to rain, takes away, at the same time, one of the main advantages of the cloth shelter, that is, its permeability to the air.

Oiled cloth covers should be handled in the same manner as glazed sashes, as they are almost as waterproof as the latter. They protect the bed very well from cooling off during the night; on the other hand, the coat of oil which insures their impermeability, catches the dust; they very soon take a dark and dirty colour and the quantity of light received by the bed is decreased in proportion. As a matter of fact,

spite of their strength, oiled cloths can only be used one season, owing to the dirt which they collect.

In some districts, always in countries with a temperate climate, oiled paper is used instead of cloth.

This paper, after receiving two or three coats of linseed oil, takes a special texture and becomes almost translucent. It stands the water very well; as regards the absorption of light it comes about half way between cloth and glazed sashes. It does not last very long however, as it soon becomes dry under the action of the sun and loses a part of its transparence. Like oil cloth, it gets dirty, but it costs so little that it may be renewed each season over the same frames.

Of all shelters, the glazed sash is by far the most air-tight. It is also the one which permits the absorption of the greatest quantity of heat; as a matter of fact, on a sunny day, no matter what the external temperature is, a glazed sash bed must be closely watched to prevent the temperature from rising to a dangerous degree.

The glazed sash, owing to its impermeability, reduces evaporation to a minimum, hence the atmosphere of the beds gets saturated with moisture, it becomes warm and must be renewed frequently. But it absorbs the heat of the sun with such rapidity that the bed may be aerated almost at any time. Therefore the seedlings are placed in the best possible conditions of growth, viz., sufficient temperature and good ventilation.

In order to avoid sunstrokes which may occur under a very hot sun, when the sashes are closed or insufficiently raised, the glass may be whitewashed with lime-water, which is made adherent by the addition of a little coal oil. Light cloth, such as muslin or cheese cloth, may also be spread over the glazed sashes in order to lessen the absorption.

The objection to glazed sashes is that, while they absorb the heat of the sun very easily during the day, they may, unless sufficient precautions are taken, let the bed