

### To Make a Hot-Bed.

It is quite impossible to have nice early plants without this aid, unless you buy your plants already grown. But as it is not costly to construct a small hot-bed, and it gives so much pleasure to see seed bursting up through the soil and forming plants, that it makes a person feel a pleasure in the work of gardening that otherwise they would not have. The first thing to do is to select a nice, warm, sheltered position for the bed. Let it face to the south or east. Use, if possible, sash 3 feet wide by 6 feet long. Make the hot-bed frame now to hold the sash, having the front about ten or twelve inches high, and the back about eighteen or twenty inches high, thus giving it a nice slope for the rain to run off. Now, the bed itself may be made in two ways: First, by making a solid bed of hot or fresh manure about two feet high, well tramped, on top of the ground, one foot larger all round than the frame. When this is completed place the frame on top of this bed, put in sash, and put on three or four inches of soil. On top of this would be placed the boxes or pots with the seeds sown in them; or by putting in two or three inches more of earth the seed may be sown directly in the bed. Do not sow any seed until the great heat is gone down, which may take two or three days. About seventy degrees is enough. Sow the seed in little furrows and cover nicely, pressing the earth down on the seed with a piece of board. Label every kind put in, and the date when put in. Now give a good watering and close up sash, giving air during the hot part of the day. The other method is to dig out about two feet more or less of the soil the size of frame, then fill up with manure well tramped down. Place frame over this and proceed as with other. Only horse manure should be used, and that should be manure that had heated. If our space would only allow, there are many minor details we would like to notice in the formation and after-treatment of the hot-bed, but this is out of the question.

### A Few Hints on the Culture of Celery.

In the first place, unless you have suitable soil, growing celery will be attended with miserable results. Neither sandy nor gravelly soil is of any use. There must be

plenty of moisture in the soil to successfully grow celery, or if it is not naturally there it must be brought there in some way. The celery may be planted on the surface of the ground, three or four inches apart in the rows, and the rows from eighteen to twenty-four inches apart. When all are planted, go over with shears, bringing them all to the same height, or after they have grown a few inches will answer as well. Now, as regards blanching, take ten or twelve inch wide boards, any length, and place them on edge on each side of rows, throwing a little earth against board to keep it from being blown down; or, if slightly trenched, take hold of each stalk with one hand to keep earth out of heart, while the other hand is used in drawing the earth with a piece of board around the plants. But we have nearly forgot to mention that the soil for celery, with its moisture, must be in good heart—that is, in good condition. In growing celery there must be no drawbacks. It must be a continual growth from the word go. Now, we are satisfied that if those injunctions are carried out, that fine, crisp, tender and rich celery will be the product, with no appearance of rust.

### Hints on Culture of Cabbage and Cauliflower.

To succeed in growing the above vegetables the soil requires to be in first-class condition, for they are great eaters, and require plenty of nourishing food, and like celery and many other vegetables, will not do well on sandy or gravelly land. The soil, then must not only be in good condition—that is, well enriched with old rotted manure, but it must be a retentive soil, one that will hold on to the moisture; and if those requisites are supplied there will be very little trouble from the grub, but where the ground is poor there you will see the grubs in thousands destroying the struggling life of the plants. It seems just as natural for insects as for a higher class of beings (to use a slang phrase) to go for the weak and struggling. As regards the seed, it should be from good stock; the whole plant is there, rolled up in the seed—minus the roots, and if the body or seed is strong, or has strong vital powers, the plant, having great vigor, will push forward and make a more compact and larger head than those produced from a lower grade.