

for him to stick to medium-sized roots. When stockings are used, they must come from seed of choice, fully developed mother roots belonging to a pure strain, otherwise the constant use of these small roots during successive generations would result in a poor strain.

TRIMMING SEED-ROOTS.

Seed-roots should not be harvested like ordinary roots. They should be harvested in such a way as to make a vigorous start immediately on being planted out in the spring. The root systems of the seed roots must be left as intact as possible if this rapid start is to be made. The seed-bearing stalks come from the crown, consequently care must be taken that the crown remains uninjured. It is recommended that the tops be cut off about 3 to 4 inches above the crown. Twisting the tops off may be a labour-saving method, but enough injury will result from such a practice to injure the roots for seed production. If the crowns are mutilated in any way they will tend to produce numerous sprouts rather than a single seed-stalk. This is undesirable, for the best-quality seed comes from seed-plants with a single main stalk.

STORING.

In order to bring your seed roots through the winter successfully the different methods of storing must be studied carefully. The roots must be stored in such a way that they will be uninjured by frosts or by heating. The sooner the roots are stored in a cool—not too dry—place after pulling, the better. When a good root-cellar is at hand, it is advisable to store there if possible in a standing position and surrounded with peat soil or moist sand. Good ventilation should be provided for,



Stacks of mangelfeed stalks.

and the temperature must be kept as low as possible, providing it does not reach freezing-point. The critical period is during the spring, when a cellar is apt to be put to its severest test. As soon as the mild weather sets in there is the danger of heating and decay commencing.

It is probable that under ordinary conditions better results will be obtained by storing in pits outside. The main essential is to have the pit on well-drained land. The pit should be made about 6 feet wide and about 3 feet high, with slanting sides. After filling, the pit should be covered with a layer of straw, and this should be covered with a layer of earth. The top of the pit is left without any soil until the cold weather sets in, so that the heat can escape. Unless weather conditions are very severe, it is usually advisable to leave small openings throughout the winter for