

them up to within four inches of the surface of the ground. The soil is now thrown back on top of the manure making the surface in the centre of the trench a little higher to provide for settling. There should at the same time be a slight slope towards the south. There should be about eight or nine inches of soil, or at least six inches, over the manure. Movable frames are used for putting over the trench. The usual length of each frame is about twelve feet. They are six feet wide and planned to take four hotbed sash each 6 by 3 feet. A path of about four feet is left at each end of the frames for working about them. After the glass has been over the trench for a day or two, the soil will be warm enough to take the seed or young plants, and it is at this time that the utmost care should be taken to prevent the plants getting chilled and a warm day should be chosen for transplanting. As the young melon plants have not a large root system and have few fibres to hold the soil to them, it should be disturbed as little as possible. It is desirable to water well before turning the plants out of the pots or boxes. Three hills of two, or at the most three, plants to a hill are now made about four feet apart in the frames, pressing the surrounding soil well about the plants, but at the same time not breaking the ball of soil attached to the roots. If in strawberry boxes, there may be four plants to the box when setting out. These all should be left until the plants are established when the weakest plant should be cut off. The plants should now be shaded to help prevent their wilting. The frames should be protected early in the season at night with matting or boards to keep the bed as warm as possible. From now on the chief attention should be given to ventilating and watering. On cold days very little ventilation can be given for fear of chilling the plants, but as the season advances and the weather becomes warmer more and more ventilation is given. Only practice can give the grower the knowledge of how and when to ventilate to get the best results. Usually ventilation is given in the morning and the frames closed at night. Water should be applied when needed, in a fine spray, the chill being taken off it before using. From time to time it may be found desirable to syringe the leaves thoroughly with a good force of water to clean off red spider. The surface soil should be kept loose and free of weeds. Cultivation should be shallow.

The pinching back or pruning of the vines is practised by the best growers. Pinching is given when the plants are transplanted from the pots to the frame, the tip of the central shoot being removed. After the vines have made about one and a half or two feet of growth the shoots are again pinched off. This produces laterals and makes it easier to distribute the vines in the frame. The laterals also bear melons and thus the largest possible number of melons can be raised in the smallest space. As the melons set, the ends of the laterals on which they are growing are pinched off to about two nodes or joints beyond the melon. This method also economizes space. Melons set well even when the vines are not pruned. If the vines have been started early they flower, melons set, reach a good size, and are often nearly mature before the frames are removed. After the vines have filled the frames, the latter are raised a little off the ground to allow the vines to extend outside. When there is no further danger of cool nights the sash are left off but the frames are often left on for a few days in case there should be an unexpected cool spell before the plants become hardened, when the glass can be put back temporarily. While muskmelons require high temperature to do well, they should at the same time have plenty of water. In their native country the melons are grown near streams where there is abundant moisture. Where the land is naturally wet in Canada it is usually too cold for melons, hence they are grown on the warm, well drained soils which often become dry in the summer and the successful melon grower is prepared to irrigate when necessary.

When one does not wish to go to the expense of using hotbed sash for forcing the melons they can be advanced considerably by using small lights about a foot square. A frame is made of pieces of twelve-inch boards and the glass is laid on top, or it may