

Cultivation :

From the time of setting the celery plants to their earthing up, it will be necessary to water, till and cultivate frequently, so as to hasten their vegetation and to maintain their vigorous growth; for if they only had to suffer a little of dryness, of noxious weeds or of the hardening of the soil, their ribs would soften, become fibrous and of no value for consumption.

Watering.—The frequency of waterings will vary according to the degree of dampness of the soil which must not be allowed to dry. As soon as the foliage will give sufficient shadow to slacken the evaporation at the root of the plants, we will water less frequently and not so abundantly as in the start.; because an excess of water might then occasion rust. Watering systems differ with the area under cultivation. In the case of small cultures, the watering can, the turnpike or a spouting hose will suffice, whereas we will have to resort to an irrigation system for extensive cultures.

Weeding.—It is especially when the plants are young that the weeds are to be found prejudicial. Accordingly they will have to be destroyed as soon as they appear. For this purpose, a hoe may be used between the rows, but hand-weeding will have to be made between the plants.

Hoeing.—The frequency of hoeings changes with the nature of the soil. In fact, it is clear that we will have to hoe more frequently the surface of a heavy ground than that of a light soil. As a rule, in dry weather, it is necessary to use a horse cultivator or a two-wheel hoe once a week between the rows, so as to keep the level of the earth perfectly loose. In the start, it will be possible, without any danger to the roots, to proceed slightly with the machine, very near to the plants, but we will have to keep farther from them from one time to another as the foliage is spreading out.

Blanching :

We have already said previously, that the celery plant, of any variety, must be blanched by etiolation before being placed on the market. This end is obtained in preventing the light from reaching the ribs of the plant. We can readily see that the methods of blanching will differ with early or late varieties of celery, according to the nature of the ground and the mode of plantation.

Early celery.—When planted in drills, in single or double rows, it will be necessary to exclude the light about three weeks before its maturity, In light grounds, the hilling up process is the most commonly used for a culture of a small area. It consists in bringing up the earth around each plant, at one third of the height for the first time, at the two-thirds, eight days later, and then up to the crown of the leaves after the following week. While making this operation which must be done in a dry weather and with the help of a scraper,