

and planted in shallow trenches about nine inches apart and about two inches deep. Cuttings may also be made in the summer. A moist situation is preferable for peppermint, but it will succeed in almost any soil. The tops are cut off just as they are coming into flower and distilled as soon afterwards as possible. The beds should be top-dressed with a good soil.

Spearmint is most largely in request, particularly in the spring and early summer. It is wise to have a good stock, in order that a portion may be available for forcing. Otherwise the propagation and cultivation are the same as for peppermint. A portion of the tops should be cut when coming into flower and hung up to dry. Green leaves are preferable to dry ones, and forcing is easy, the only preparation being the insertion of a quantity of roots in a box of soil placed in a temperature of sixty degrees and kept watered.

We are indebted to the "Nicholson's Dictionary of Gardening" for most of the above points.

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#### FOWL MANURE FOR PLANTS.

**508.** SIR,—Will you say in your next issue, whether fowl manure leached will answer all the purposes of a fertilizer for plants in pots? And if the manure should be left to ferment before being leached, should the liquid be diluted before being applied to the plants?

STEARNE TIGHE, *Amherst Island, Ont.*

*Reply by N. Robertson, Superintendent Government Grounds, Ottawa.*

Fowl manure will answer as a fertilizer for plants in pots, but there are many things preferable. It can be used either after fermentation or before. The former method I should prefer for various reasons. If it is not diluted and made very weak much damage may be done by its use. I would advise its use only on what is called soft-wooded material.

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#### WHAT PAYS BEST?

**509.** SIR,—I intend to begin fruit growing, and would like to know what to plant that would give me the best returns in the shortest time?

S. K. MERCER, *Burnhamthorpe.*

There is no doubt that small fruits give the quickest returns. Indeed, take it year by year, they probably yield more money, acre by acre, than the larger fruits. Of course, proportionately more time and labor is required in their cultivation. It would be difficult to advise our correspondent with regard to which fruits pay best. They are all profitable, providing a good market for each is at hand, and upon this everything must hinge.