

(3) Frames should not be any higher above the soil in the bed than is necessary for the growth of plants. When so constructed less heat will be required and a smaller part of the bed will be shaded from the sun.

(4) The cinders (not ashes) or charcoal under the bed improves drainage and prevents some loss of heat. Some growers prefer two or three inches of peat, moss, or sand. B. C. Electric cinders obtainable from the company's coke department are excellent for this purpose and have been used with good success. Where there is no danger of damage to the cable from hand tools or cultivating equipment the divider or screen is not necessary.

**HEAT CONTROL:** The temperature may be controlled manually or automatically. A thermostat reduces labor and attention, and may result in a considerable saving of electricity, particularly during the warmer weather.

A most satisfactory thermostat is available which has a range of from 40° F. to 110° F. and will closely maintain the temperature of the soil or air in the bed at any heat desired within its range. It has a flexible capillary tube about two feet long and a 6½ inch bulb. The bulb may therefore be located at almost any desired spot in the air or soil of the hotbed.

**OPERATION—VENTILATION—WATERING:** Ordinary hotbeds require considerable ventilation to get rid of steam and ammonia fumes. If the grower is careful to water electric hotbeds (when needed) in the early part of the day, so that the surface of the bed will be dry before the cool night temperatures strike it, there should be very little need of ventilation, except to keep down excessive temperatures under a bright sun. Reducing ventilation in the manner helps to keep the bill for electrical energy down.

Canvas, burlap, mats, boards, or other coverings placed over the sashes during cold nights will help to conserve the heat.

The beds may be started about a week later than manure beds to mature about the same time.

Some plants require different temperatures from others. By controlling the temperature to suit the plants the best results are obtained.