

are then cut to the proper size, dried or rolled in ashes, and planted with a pretty liberal application of ground bone guano in the furrows. Should the season be too backward to allow the ground to be worked at the time the Potatoes should be cut,—which is apparent by the withering of the tubers,—the sets are placed in shallow boxes, with a little soil sprinkled over them. When the ground is in proper condition, the sets are planted out, at which time they have sometimes made roots an inch long.

“If there is danger of severe frost after the vines have appeared above ground, I cover them with soil, which operation serves as a first hoeing at the same time; but a slight frost does not injure them. They are then worked and killed in the usual way. The bugs are not likely to attack them, as the vines have made nearly their full growth before the larvæ make their appearance. To guard against frost, a mulching of straw might be applied, which need not be removed afterward, and, if heavy enough, would save all after-cultivation.

“Although I have tried this method only on a small piece of ground, I see no reason why market gardeners near large cities could not make it profitable on a larger scale.”—*The American Garden.*

#### SMALL FRUITS TO JAPAN.

An opportunity was afforded a *Free Press* reporter yesterday of inspecting a consignment of small fruit plants which have been selected by Mr. Wm. Saunders, of this city, for the Japanese Government. The collection consisted of twenty-nine varieties in all, seven sorts of strawberries, ten of raspberries, three of blackberries, and nine of currants and gooseberries. The plants were carefully packed in damp moss

and oiled paper, neatly done up in twenty-two packages, and were forwarded to-day by mail *via* San Francisco. The Japanese have none of these small fruits native to their country, but have lately introduced some varieties of strawberries which have succeeded well. They are anxious to obtain additional sorts of these and other small fruits. At the late meeting of the British Association in Montreal, Japan was represented by one of her most distinguished scientists, Prof. Dairoku Kikuchi, chief of the Tokio University; there was also present Mr. Arakowa, representing the Agricultural Department of Japan. From conversation with these gentlemen information was obtained in regard to the special wants of Japan in this direction, and arrangements made for supplying them. The plants have been selected with much care, and forwarded to Sen Tsuda, who is in charge of the Government Experimental Farm at Tokio, who will take care of them, and, if successful, propagate from them for distribution to other parts of the empire. In return Mr. Saunders is promised specimens of Japanese fruits, flowers and seeds of interesting ornamental shrubs and trees. This interchange of products will probably prove a benefit to both countries.—*London Free Press.*

**A NEW GRAIN.**—We should be glad if all our readers could see the nine plants at the Rural Grounds, which are hybrids between wheat and rye. The heads of one plant are very different from either of these grains. Should this cross produce a new grain as hardy and prolific as rye, giving flour of a better quality, it would prove a great acquisition. But we are not prone to count chickens before they are hatched. The new grain may prove inferior, in all essential particulars, to either parent. Meanwhile, it is certainly worthy of being recorded that the cross has been effected.—*Rural New Yorker.*