

free admission of air. A second hand hoeing soon after finishing the first thinning is advisable, for the reason that two or more plants growing together injure one another both in size and quality. It has also the advantage of cleaning and loosening the ground in the drills between the plants. Even a third and a fourth horse hoeing may be done, depending, of course, upon circumstances. Every cultivation promotes growth, improving the chances for a profitable crop, but must never be done when the ground is wet.

#### HARVESTING.

The right time for harvesting varies with circumstances. The later it is delayed the better, provided sufficient fine weather remains to accomplish the work, and provided the beets are not in danger of a second growth. Both wet weather and freezing temperatures are undesirable; consequently, if the beets have ripened, harvesting may begin any time in October. Yellowish green color of leaf, drooping and dying leaves are indications of ripened beets. Harvesting beets is not difficult. The beets are loosened from the ground either with a spade-like instrument or by a machine called a beet harvester. Topping is done with a large knife held in the hand. The operation consists in removing the whole of that portion of the beet to which the stem of the leaves have been attached. The topped beets are thrown into piles or rows and covered with the tops, which protect them from sun and frost till delivered at the factory.

---