

part of the day, keeping the sash open as short a time as possible, and distributing the water, slightly warmed beforehand, by means of the rose of a watering pot, pierced with very small holes, or with a bunch of broom, used as a water sprinkler. In this way one will avoid laying bare the roots of the young plants, and, in case a slight baring should be noticed, one ought immediately to spread sifted mould over, in order to re-cover the roots.

It follows that as the plants become more vigorous, one should proceed to acclimatize them, opening the sash during a part of the day, and as the evaporation becomes more active, one should increase the quantity of water given to the forcing bed, but it is then better to sprinkle frequently, avoiding, however, doing so too late in the evening, always using slightly warm water, and being careful not to use a larger quantity than is strictly necessary for keeping up the humidity for the seedlings. In this way one avoids loss of heat whilst giving the young plant all the water it requires, in such proportions and at such times as the young plant requires. Moreover, the fermentation of the layer of manure, which supports the seed-bed, is not disturbed by the invasion of the water from the sprinklings; which invasion would result in the drying up of the mould in cases in which the water would be distributed too copiously.

WEEDING.

However great the care expended in the preparation of the mould, the forcing beds are more or less invaded by weeds. In order to release the young tobacco plants and allow them to develop more freely, one proceeds to the necessary weeding. These last, preceded, if necessary, by a sprinkling, will be made by hand, or with the point of a knife, during the warm part of the day. The laying bare of the roots of the young plants should be avoided, and a coating of mould ought always to be given when the work is completed. Weedings should be effected in a regular manner until the time when the tobacco plants occupying the whole forcing bed have become strong enough and no longer permit the other plants to develop near them.

THINNING OUT.

In spite of precautions taken at the time of sowing, it frequently happens, one might say usually, that the young plants come up too near each other. It is necessary to thin out the forcing bed before the young plants are too far developed, leaving in the earth the stronger, which thus released, will develop more rapidly, and strike out an abundant beard root. By this means the production of weak plants is avoided a thing which happens when the young plants, too close together, develop a tendency to lanky growth. As in the case of weedings, the thinning out ought to be preceded by a light sprinkling, which facilitates the extraction, and followed by a coating of mould, this last being particularly urgent.

VENTILATION OF THE SEEDLINGS.

When the young plants have put out six leaves, which should happen shortly before the time of transplantation, and when the temperature becomes milder, they must be acclimatized so as to prepare them for transplanting, and give them the necessary vigour.

To this end, during the warm part of the day, the sashes should be partly opened. At first the sashes should be open only for a short time, this time should gradually be increased until such time as they can be finally taken out altogether; in the latter case, especially in Canada, one should never forget to replace the sashes in the evening, so as to protect the seedlings from the white frosts.

It is impossible here to indicate the exact time at which the sashes can be opened. The young plants require air as well as heat and light, and whenever a favourable opportunity offers, except in the very first days of the sprouting of the seeds in the hot