

SOWING THE SEED

For convenience in cultivation, it is much better to sow in rows, allowing an extra space for walks every fourth row, for marking the rows various means have been devised; a roller, which will



Garden Reel and
Line

serve at the same time as a marker, consists of a smooth hardwood log with heavy rope secured firmly about it at distance corresponding to the intervals desired between the rows, or a garden line, stretched tightly from end to end of the row, will be found a great convenience, for unless the rows are perfectly straight cultivation is very difficult and the appearance of the garden leaves much to be desired. The soil should be moist when the seed is put in, and care must be taken that it does not bake above the seed. Most seeds should be sown more thickly than they can be grown to perfection and thinned to proper

distances in the rows, the thinning should be done when the second pair of leaves appear, and care must be taken not to loosen the roots of the remaining plants. Some seeds which are slow of germination, such as parsley, beet, carrot and parsnips may be soaked in water for a day before sowing, and will probably come up a number of days earlier.

TRANSPLANTING

The time for transplanting is generally when the second pair of leaves are well grown; choose a cloudy day, have the soil in best condition, press it firmly about the roots, and should the sun come out shade the seedling with shingles, large leaves or paper screens. If the leaves of the young plants are clipped off about half-way back from the point, the evaporation from them will be lessened that much and the roots will have an opportunity to establish connection with the soil and secure ample moisture before the full demand from the leaves is renewed.

WATERING

We have laid great stress in the foregoing pages upon the retention of the natural moisture in the soil by cultivation; it is the most important principle of successful gardening; the mulch of light fine soil upon the surface and about the plants prevents evaporation and gives the roots the benefit of all the moisture there is. But there are seasons of continued drouth when it becomes necessary to water the garden, which must be done very thoroughly, so that the moisture may reach the deepest rootlets, which are always the most active. Surface sprinkling is ineffective always, if the plants are well watered, and if the earth is allowed to bake and form a crust afterwards it is positively harmful. The best time for watering is