

How to Grow Melons that Bring Big Money*

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WE prefer a light soil, and high ground so as to prevent water from getting underneath. Our hotbeds are six by twelve feet, three sashes. The seed is sown in a hotbed in the beginning of April in drills six inches apart, and when the third leaf begins to show, the young plants are

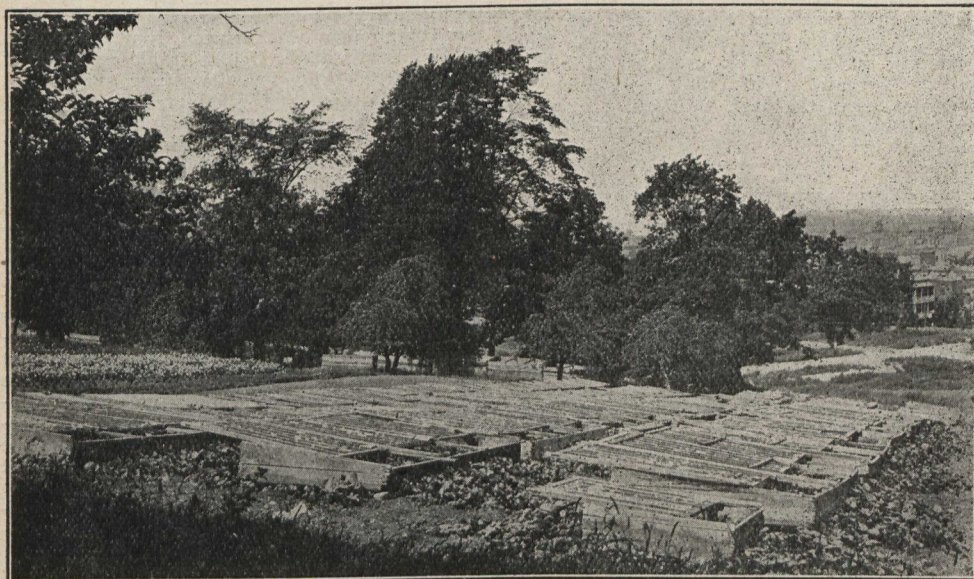
stopping that they receive. In planting, remove the pot carefully, place the plants in the centre of each light, leaving two or three inches of earth over the manure; pack the soil well around the plants, and water; this is the only hard watering that we give them. As they require it during the

to one side, and throw in sufficient earth to level off the beds. Repeat the same operation on the other side and train out the vines, pinching out the centre or top of each vine. This is the second stopping.

By this time, the space between the beds requires attention. This we dig or plow and level in such a manner as to have a fall to the centre between the frames. As the beds begin to fill with vines, they require to be let out. We take off the sashes, raise the frames about a foot, and train out the vines carefully, again pinching back the tops. This is the last stopping they receive. Place four blocks or flat stones, one at each corner, to receive the frame; this leaves a space of three or four inches and prevents the vines from being crushed. Replace the sashes and air as usual.

By this time, most of the melons have set, and as they begin to swell and net, they should be turned, not completely around, but just enough to relieve the part that rests on the earth and in such a manner as not to bring the exposed part in direct contact with the sun. This process of turning is very important and should be done at least once a week throughout the season. About a week or less, as near as we can judge, before the fruit begins to ripen, we remove the sashes and frames, store them away and train out any vines that may require it.

In marketing the melons, we are careful not to have any of them over-ripe.



Hotbeds Used by Mr. Gorman for Growing Melons

ready for potting. We use five-inch pots, two plants to a pot, and place or plunge them in another bed which has been made for the purpose. Care should be taken to shade them for two or three days to prevent wilting.

To the place where they are to be set out or grown, we give a liberal dressing of well-rotted manure and plow in, after which we dig the trenches; these trenches are made in rows twelve to fifteen feet apart, and eighteen to twenty inches deep, the same in width. When the time comes for planting out, say the first week in May, we fill these trenches with well-heated horse manure, packed firmly and level off to the surface of the soil. We then put on the beds or frames two or three feet apart in the rows, being careful to have the manure in the centre of each bed lengthwise. Next day, we fill in the earth. This we take from both sides of the frame and throw in the centre of each bed, right over the manure. If this work is done in the morning, they are ready for planting that afternoon, which is the best time to plant, about four o'clock.

Before planting we water the plants thoroughly and pinch out the top or centre of each plant; this is the first

season, we pull back the sashes for favorable showers, being careful to replace them the same evening.

Airing is also very important. This is done about eight o'clock every morning, closing down around five in



The Famous Gorman Melons as They Appear in the Field

the afternoon, so as to retain sufficient heat to do them over night.

When the plants begin to run, that is when the plants are from a foot and one-half to two feet long, they require earthing. To do this, we take off the sashes, remove any weeds that may have started, turn the vines over

To prevent this we go over the patch every morning, and should it be a very warm day, we place them in the storehouse in the evening and ship or dispose of them every day.

In the next issue an article will appear on growing tomatoes in pots.

* A portion of an address given at last convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.