

HORTICULTURAL

Prof W Saxby Blair, Supt. of the Experimental Station at Kentville, will furnish us with material from week to week bearing on Horticulture. We are confident that our readers will appreciate this valuable information as Prof. Blair is a well known authority, and if his suggestions and advice is followed, success is assured.

HOTBEDS

In order to have vegetables covering as long a period as possible it is necessary to have a hotbed. Some plants cannot be brought to maturity without the hotbed to start the seeds in and develop the plants for setting out. The expense connected with the hotbed is not great. The size of frame required is one large enough to carry four sashes each 3 feet wide and six feet long. Two inch plank is usually used. The back of the frame is 15 to 18 inches high and the front 10 to 12 inches. The planks are spiked to the end pieces which are 4 inches under the 6 feet, and three 2 by 2 cross pieces are put level with the top of the frame to carry the edge of the centre sashes. Boards can be used for the frame but the plank are much more satisfactory and durable.

The sashes are usually made up of 3 rows of 10 by 12 glass which are lapped so that the water will run off, 16 lights are required for each sash. The sashes usually cost about \$2.25 each complete. The glazed sashes cost usually \$1.25 each. Any window sash can be used and a frame any size to fit the sash can be made. Outside window sashes are often used, and if kept properly painted and laid away after they are not wanted it does not injure them appreciably. After a rain they should be lifted to let the water run off so that the putty will not be loosened.

The hotbed should be located on the south side of a building, or protection of some sort is advisable.

The manure used is placed on the surface of the ground. Horse manure is the best to use as it gives a uniform and lasting heat. The bed is made at least one foot larger on each edge of the frame. The frame is set on this when it is finished. If the pile is made too narrow and the edges not well built the frame will settle at the edges and the inside become rounded, hence the importance of using care in getting the edges well put up. The manure is scattered evenly in layers building the whole pile up so that it will settle evenly. If the manure is dry it should be tramped and possibly some water to dampen it may be advisable. If it is damp very little tramping, except that caused by the forking over the manure, will be necessary. Manure that has been "fire-fanged" is not of any value, and when saving up the manure care should be taken to see that it does not become "burnt-out." If the bed is started early 2 1/2 feet, which will ultimately settle to 18 inches, should be used. Two feet of good manure makes a good bed after the early part of April.

After the manure is placed the frame and sashes are put on the bed and it is allowed to remain for a week giving a little ventilation to allow rank gases to escape. An inch or two of soil, cinders, ashes, or sand is then placed on the manure to level it up if flats are to be used, or if soil is to be used this can be put on to a depth of 5 inches. The bed then should be in good condition for starting seeds.

Any good garden soil is suitable for starting seed in. It is not advisable to have the soil excessively rich as this forces growth too rapidly. A light loamy soil is advisable.

Much care is necessary in order to give proper ventilation. If the weather was in any degree constant specific directions could be given, but owing to varying sunshine wind and out-

side temperature conditions this is impossible. Keep in mind that the space between the glass and the plants is very small, and that a bright sun will run up the temperature very rapidly, and in fact burn the plants in a short time if left without a slight ventilation, on the other hand too much ventilation may chill the plants in a short time. It does not take long to form judgment in the management of the frame if one gives a little thought to it. A temperature of the soil ranging about 60 degrees may be considered about right but considerable variation either way may not cause injury. It is better to run the bed fairly low, as the plants are much more stocky. If the plants are forced by high temperature they become weak and spindling.

The watering requires care. The soil should not be soaked particularly during dark cold days when it is impossible to ventilate very much. The watering should be done about noon so that the plants and bed can dry off before being closed for the night. It is not good to use ice cold water on small seedlings as this chills the plants. If a very cold spell approaches it is wise to protect the plants by putting bags or rugs over the glass. This is particularly desirable if the manure has not been heating well or if much heating material has not been used. Usually the heat of the sun is sufficient for the day time but for night the heat from the fermenting manure is depended upon. Old heavy bags sawed together form a splendid cover and the cover should be made large enough to come down over the edge to shut off the air from the edge of the sash. A little attention to this will give a more even temperature in the bed during the night and possibly prevent freezing during a very cold night.

The hotbed can be made any time now; in fact, it is well to get busy at once as we are not far from the first of April when seeds of some plants should be started, and the bed should be made a week before any seeding is done.

If women could make hotbeds nearly every farm-house would have one, but it is a man's job. The women can look after the details connected with the management of the hotbed better than the man, hence the importance of placing it within easy reach of the rear of the house so that it can receive the attention of the women of the house. I want to say, however, that we owe it to our families, to the boy and girl, particularly, to start a hotbed. It is a potent factor in the development what makes for good citizenship. Its value cannot be measured in dollars and cents, and the man who fails to help out in this particular is not living up to his opportunities. The old excuse of not having time does not hold in this case. The truth is it is a lack of interest in one of many things which goes to make life on the farm worth while.

It is not for vegetables alone that we want the hotbed, but there are many annual flowering plants which can be started that will go a long way toward making the home attractive, and not only gives pleasure to the inmates of the home, but they give pleasure to all those who come in touch with that home.

FLATS.

The word flat is used to designate a shallow box. This box may be any size desired but should not be deeper than 3

inches. The flat should not be too large. Twelve by eighteen inches is a good size, and it can when filled with soil be easily handled by a woman. Two and a half inches in depth of soil is sufficient to grow any plants in for setting out. It is best to use 1/2 inch lumber for sides and bottom and 3/4 inch ends. The bottom should not be tight thus giving drainage. Soap boxes, packing cases, in fact any such lumber makes excellent flats. It is a good plan to make the flats of one size in order to make the best use of the space in the hotbed.

The advantage of the flat is that seedlings start better in them than in soil in the hotbed. They can be moved from place to place. The bed can be opened a flat taken to the kitchen the plants transplanted to other flats where it is warm and the flats carried to the hotbed again. Less soil is required. As the plants get larger and ready for hardening off they can be left outside or put into a cold frame and the space in the hotbed given to other plants. When transplanting time arrives the plants can be carried to the field and with a knife the soil cut out in squares and the plant set to the open ground with little check. In fact in every way the flats are desirable and will materially add to the success of the grower. Usually the first interest awakened in the boy and girl in regard to pleasures in farm life centers around the handling of garden plants and it is well that we see to it that a few plants are well grown rather than many should be poorly grown. The flat helps in the growing of good plants and the work of putting together a few flats is not very great.

STARTING THE SEED.

The smaller the seed the shallower the depth of planting. The small seed such as celery should be covered about one-eighth inches deep and cabbage and onions one-quarter inch. Moisture is essential to good germination and as the germinating seed is confined to the top thin layers of soil it is necessary that this should be kept always moist. It is advisable that a paper be spread over the flat of newly planted seed to keep the soil from drying out rapidly and save so much watering. This covering should be removed as soon as the young plants appear; to neglect this will spoil the plants in a short time. It is a good plan if the sun is very bright to lay laths on the glass spaced one inch apart to give a partial shade yet furnish the desired sunlight.

Every care should be given to the watering of the seedlings for the week following their germination and at this time do not overwater. The advantage of a partial shade is that less drying out of the flats will take place. The higher the temperature the quicker the germination, however, too high a temperature may force the germination and give weak plants. It is well therefore to give moderate temperature conditions. Poor germination often results from drying out of the surface soil hence the importance of giving attention to this detail. Excessive moisture with a low temperature favors rotting of the seed and the lower the temperature the less the watering required.

The soil should be put into the flat so that it will settle uniform and should be slightly packed particularly around the edges of the flat. The soil may be screened and the rougher parts placed in the bottom and the finer on top. It is not necessary however to screen the soil if it is well worked over by hand. If the soil is heavy sand should be added to lighten it some and the covering for the seed is better made up of half sand and half soil. The seed may be scattered broadcast or put in rows and after it is covered press the soil around the seed



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as this gives better surface moisture conditions.

If the hotbed is kept closed and the air charged with moisture and there is a possibility of the damping off fungus getting started. This fungus causes a rotting of the plants at the surface of the ground. Plenty of ventilation is the best way to guard against this trouble. Seedlings particularly are liable to injury and if this is noticed give less water and ventilate more freely.

For the average farm a hotbed of two sashes say 6 by 6 feet will give what plants are required. It is better to put up a bed for one sash than to be without the hotbed.

W. SAXBY BLAIR

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, Etc.

From Outlook Cor. Middleton and Melvern Square: Mr. DeWolfe of Kentville was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hoyt, last week.

Miss Gretchen Gates came home on Saturday from Wolfville to spend Sunday. Among those on the sick list last week was the Rev. A. E. Wheeler, who has been very ill of tonsillitis, consequently he was unable to fill his appointment on Sunday.

Principal H. L. Bustin, who unfortunately, cut his foot early last week, has been confined to his home during the week, but will soon be able to attend to his duties as usual.

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia.

Turks Petitioning Sultan For Peace.

Give Warning That End of Present Situation Will Likely be Revolution.

London, March 14—The Athens correspondent of the Daily Chronicle sends the following:

"The Salonica branch of the Young Turks Committee has received information from Constantinople that a petition has been submitted to the new Crown Prince by the inhabitants of the Vilayets of Isnid, Brussa, and Koni, signed by 70,000 persons, requesting the Sultan to dismiss the young Turks' Government, negotiate peace with the Entente, and dissolve the present Chamber. The petition ends by stating that if the present situation continues it will end in revolution.

The Crown Prince took the petition to the Sultan, with whom he discussed the subject for a considerable time, leaving the Sultan's presence in a nervous condition. The petition has made a great impression in diplomatic circles in Constantinople, because it must have been impossible to obtain so many signatures without the fact becoming known to the authorities. This being the case, either the authorities themselves commenced the movement or tolerated it.

Outside Constantinople three German regiments are encamped, and together with a few auxiliaries guarding ammunition depots hold the Turks in check. The Germans are entirely policing the city.

DOMINION ATLANTIC RAILWAY & STEAMERS

Kentville Time Table effective Nov. 1915. (Service daily except Sunday)

Table with columns for LEAVE and ARRIVE, listing destinations like Halifax, Yarmouth, and Kingsport with corresponding times.

Midland Division

Trains of the Midland Division in Windsor daily (except Sunday) for Truro at 7:05 a. m., 5:10 p. m. and 7:50 a. m. from Truro for Windsor at 6:05 a. m., 5:50 p. m. and 12:50 p. m. connecting Truro with trains of the Intercolonial Railway and at Windsor with express trains to and from Halifax and Yarmouth. Buffet parlor cars run daily (except Sunday) on Mail Express trains between Halifax and Yarmouth.

Canadian Pacific Railway

ST. JOHN and MONTREAL (via Digby) (Daily Sunday excepted) S. S. YARMOUTH leaves St. John at 8 a. m., arr. Digby 10:15 a. m., L. Digby 1:50 p. m., arr. St. John 5:05 p. m. Connections with the Canadian Pacific trains at St. John for Montreal and the West. Trains run on Atlantic Standard time.

BOSTON SERVICE

Steamers of the Boston and Yarmouth S. S. Co., sail from Yarmouth for Halifax and Truro, Wednesdays and Saturdays. R. U. PARKER, Genl. Passenger Agent. GEORGE E. GRAHAM, General Manager.

NOTICE

Bring your Carriages, Automobiles in and have them touched up. The proved appearance will fight you.

Bike Wagons For Sale

Auto Painting a Specialty. AUBREY YOUNG. Paint Shop opposite Aberdeen Street.

FOR SALE

At a bargain, a small farm of six acres containing 115 apple, plum, pear, cherry trees, 2 1/2 miles from Kentville. Comfortable 7 roomed house, barn, other out buildings on premises. Wharfe particulars apply to E. R. H. White Rock, N. S., Oct. 9th, '15.

TO LET

The Store on Main Street, Kentville, lately occupied by J. W. Ryan & Co. Floor of main floor, carpet room, basement—5000 square feet. Apply to J. W. Ryan.

FURNESS SAILINGS

Table listing sailing dates and destinations: From London, Feb. 10 Rappahannock, Feb. 29 Shenandoah, Mar. 14 Kanawha, From Liverpool, Jan. 31 Dromore, Feb. 15 Durango, Feb. 24 Graciana, Mar. 5 Tabasco.

Above sailings are not altered and are subject to change without notice.

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NOBLENESS

As one lamp lights another, grows less, so nobleness enkindleth not itself. —James Russell Lowell