

oughly watered the day before the planting is to be done. This is a much better practice than to sow seeds, and especially fine seeds, in a dry seed bed and then to water with the sprinkling can. The latter practice invariably causes a hard crust to form over the top, through which the young plants come up with difficulty, if at all; free access of air is prevented and the moisture necessary for growth is allowed to escape.

From one to three weeks after the seeds have been planted and when danger of frost is past, the transplanting from hot-beds or cold-frames may be done. If possible it should be done on a moist or cloudy day, otherwise it will be necessary to shade the plants with papers or shingles for a few days and to water them frequently. Water from a well should be allowed to stand in a tank or barrel for a few hours before being used on garden plants. The holes for the plants may be made with a transplanting trowel, or, if the plants are very small, with a sharpened stick. Before the plants are lifted they should be thoroughly watered to prevent the breaking of the delicate rootlets. They should be placed in the holes, using water if the soil is very dry, and the earth then firmly pressed around their roots. When set, they should be slightly deeper in the soil than before transplanting.

Care of the Garden After Planting.—When once the planting is done, two half-hours' work per week is sufficient to keep the garden in good condition. The prevention rather than the eradication of weeds should be aimed at. If cultivation is carried on regularly and systematically from the first, the weeds will all be destroyed in the germinating stage and will give no further trouble. Mere weed killing is not the greatest value to be gained by cultivation, however; for if the soil is thoroughly stirred around the roots of the plants a couple of times every week, the necessary supply of air in the soil for rapid growth will be ensured. In many cases the top soil forms into a hard crust, especially after a heavy rainfall, and in this hard soil are many little channels through which moisture escapes into the air by evaporation. This soil should be finely pulverized to a depth of two or three inches, thus forming an earth mulch which prevents the rapid escape of moisture from the soil. If mulching and cultivation are thus carefully attended to, the difficult problems connected with the weeding and watering of the garden are incidentally solved. The garden rake should supersede the sprinkling can under ordinary circumstances. Of course it is necessary to water plants after transplanting, and there are certain soils that need watering occasionally during a dry season, but such cases are not common. If artificial watering is needed it should be done in the evening and a plentiful supply should be given. Merely wetting the surface soil encourages shallow rooting and is injurious to the plants.

Care should be taken not to have the plants much crowded in the rows or the rows very close together. The ideal condition would be to have the plants so far apart that they would completely cover the ground without crowding when full grown. When the plants have reached this stage of development, if cultivation has been thoroughly and carefully done there will be no further danger from weeds, as weeds will not grow in such deep shade.