

with light seed harrows, for the purpose, chiefly, of preserving the soil moisture. In from ten to fourteen days, with favorable weather, the plants will have germinated.

CULTIVATION OF BEETS BEFORE THINNING.

As soon as the plants can be traced in the row, surface cultivation of the soil between the drills should be commenced, to clean the land and preserve moisture, to admit air more freely into the soil, and in every way to hasten the most rapid growth of the young plants. This cultivation may be accomplished



FIG. 3.—White Improved Vilmorin Sugar Beet.



FIG. 4.—Kleinwanzlebener Sugar Beet.

by hand, but more quickly by a horse hoe. It should be remembered that the young plants are easily injured, either by a covering of earth or by being loosened; therefore, a strip of 2 inches on each side of the plants in the drill should not be disturbed by this early cultivation.

THINNING.

After the first cultivation, the young plants grow rapidly when, upon the development of the 3rd or 4th leaf, thinning must be commenced, and should be finished as soon after as possible. Thinning is done chiefly with a narrow hoe, but the hands must be also freely used in singling out for the reason that the young selected plants, unlike turnips, must not be roughly handled.

CULTIVATION AFTER THINNING.

During thinning, the beet will have grown considerably, and the time having arrived for a second cultivation, the hand or horse hoe may be run deeper than in the first cultivation, in order to open thoroughly and loosen the soil for the