

arranged that the hoe shall do most of your weeding. We have found it a great convenience in sowing seeds to take a piece of board from four to six inches wide, and about three feet in length, and bevel one edge to the shape of the letter V. Nail a handle of convenient length on the centre of the other edge, and then standing erect, you can mark out your rows in perfectly straight lines, by simply pressing the instrument into the earth; then sowing your seed, a light raking of the soil covers them effectually.

If you have not an asparagus bed, let not the present season pass without sowing seed; or, better still, transplanting roots two years from the seed into a suitable bed.

Onion seed should be sown as early as possible; a few days' delay may materially affect the size of the bulbs. Why it is we know not, but early sown seed is more apt to make good bottoms than seed sown at the usual time of sowing.

Select a warm spot, sheltered from north and east winds, and sow your early peas and lettuce.

Last fall, about the 15th of October, we sowed some lettuce seed, designing to have it just in leaf as cold weather should come on. As soon as sharp frosts came, we threw over the bed our pea-brush, and over the brush, old potato, squash and cucumber vines. As soon as the snow disappeared the present spring, the lettuce was ready to grow; and the frost seemed to have had no effect upon its vitality.

But while we recommend early sowing of hardy vegetables, many of our common vegetables and flower seeds will come on much more rapidly if not sown until the ground is thoroughly warmed, which in this vicinity is from the 20th of May to 1st of June.

We quote from W. M. PLANT & Co's *Descriptive Catalogue* the following remarks on manures:

"There are many kinds of manures, and different modes of applying them. The manure from cows, and all animals that chew the cud, is considered cold, and suited to a light soil; that of horses, hogs and poultry is hot, and best suited to a cold, heavy soil. All new and fresh manure engenders heat during fermentation, and has a tendency to lighten the soil; while old, rotten manure is thought to render it more compact and firm. A thick coat of hog-pen or barn-yard dung, spread on a garden and turned in every spring, will enrich, warm and lighten the ground more and better than any application of any other manure.

"Salt, at the rate of six bushels to the acre, sowed on in the spring, away from the salt water spray, near the sea-shore, not only promotes fertility, but is very useful in destroying worms and slugs.

"Wood ashes, leached or unleached, may be used as a top dressing with decided benefit to most growing vegetables, especially onions and turnips.

"Plaster of Paris, sown upon the growing crop, is

good for turnips, beans, cucumbers, and all broad-leaved plants.

"Lime facilitates the decay of vegetable substances, and is best suited to a sour, heavy soil. It ought never to be mixed with animal manure, as the one will destroy the efficacy of the other.

"Guano is too powerful to be used alone with safety, and must not be allowed to come directly in contact with seeds or plants. It may be mixed with ten parts loam, or coal dust and scattered very thinly around growing vegetables, and dug in just before a rain; or it may be steeped in the proportion of one pound to ten gallons of water, and the liquid applied once a week; but it should be remembered that it is almost sure destruction to anything newly transplanted. Its effects are most favorable in moist seasons.

"Poudrette is a very active manure to start early crops, but is not lasting. It is necessary to apply it the second time, and it should always be placed under the surface.

"Liquid manure from the yard, or the drainage of the dung-hill, should be diluted with water before it is applied to growing plants, otherwise it will be apt to burn them.

"Compost is a mixture of earths and animal manures, ashes, soot, charcoal dust, lime, salt, plaster, urine, straw, weeds, and various other fertilizing substances in different combinations, thrown into a heap to remain till decomposed. It forms a very excellent manure for many kinds of garden vegetables. Compost heaps and all other manures ought to be kept under cover."

#### RAVAGES OF THE BARK LOUSE.

MR. EDITOR:—Being to some extent interested in the nursery business, I have looked with anxiety for some comments on that pest to our apple trees, the bark louse. Its depredations are not confined to the apple tree alone, for pear and ornamental trees, and also currant bushes are affected. All efforts to destroy them (and I believe that nearly every remedy suggested by writers on this subject has been tried) have failed. Three years ago I planted two trees that were affected by themselves, for the purpose of experimenting upon them, but to no effect. Last year a few trees were killed by them, and this year I think many more will be also. I have a fine young orchard of 250 apple trees, most of them in bearing, which I fully expect no human aid will be able to keep alive, if the bark louse continues to increase as fast as they have done for five years past. P. S.

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[P. S. need not fear the publication of the above, for it is very important to know of some means of dislodging such a formidable foe from our orchards. In a recent number we have given the remedy by Prof. HARRIS, our highest authority at present, viz: solution of whale oil soap.—Ed.]