

producing food for the family, but it is productive of health, as a bountiful supply of vegetables on the table, will frequently keep a family healthy; and when their food consists constantly of salt meats, potatoes, and bread only, the doctor is a frequent visitor, in many cases.


The gardens that most farmers have are a disgrace to them;—a few hills of early potatoes, beans, squashes, &c., so entangled in weeds, that a man would require a compass in a cloudy day, when among them, to tell which way is north, and which south.

There is a great mistake made, we think, by almost all people who have gardens, in putting beets, carrots, parsnips, &c., in *beds*. It is much better to grow such things in long rows, a foot to eighteen inches apart so wide that a man may have room to walk between them easily to hoe them. Suppose you have a plot of ground plowed and harrowed, 100 feet square. First rake it off with a heavy iron rake, then set a line for the first row, drawn tight, then with the corner of your hoe, mark the row, where the seed is to be sown, directly under the line, which one can do almost as fast as a man can walk. At each end of the plat, you should have a stick for a measure of the width of the rows. Now, having marked out your first tow, lay down the measure and set the line for the next one, and so on till the space you desire to sow is all marked out, "as straight as a line."

If you desire to sow beets, carrots, parsnips and the like, the corner of your hoe should not make a furrow over an inch deep, with the dirt raised some on each side, and when the seed is sown, and the ground levelled, it will not be covered over half an inch deep, which is enough.

On this system of sowing vegetables, you will accomplish double in the same time, what you could by making beds for them, while the crops will be much better, owing to the fact, that we generally sow seeds in rows too close in beds.

SOME HINTS ON ORCHARDS.



VERY farm that is made the home of a family should have on it a good orchard. If in a favoured fruit growing district, it will become one of the chief sources of profit. The incomes derived from good orchards during the past few years, will be sufficient stimulus to future planting, where there is a reasonable hope of success. Many will determine this

winter to plant in the spring, but before a tree is set out they should consider well some of the chief points which will materially affect their future profits.

The space between the trees should be determined by the system chosen for future cultivation—whether the planter resolves to devote the ground wholly to the orchard, or intends to include the field in the ordinary farm rotation, and grow therein grains, grasses, roots, &c. If the land is to be given up wholly to the orchard, twenty-five to thirty feet apart each way will be enough for apple trees; if it is to be cultivated with other crops, forty to fifty feet space between the trees should be given.

Devoting the land wholly to the orchard, seems to be the best method, for the following reasons: If included in the ordinary farm rotations, the soil will be subjected to the double burden imposed by the crops and trees. To keep up its fertility will require more manure than can be spared from the rest of the farm. In the future, orchards will be mostly planted on fields long cultivated and exhausted of the original fertility. Old orchards have been prolific, without much manuring, because they were planted and grown on land that had not been previously cropped to much extent. Hereafter, the fruit growers must use more manure.

Cultivation is essential to the rapid and thrifty growth of an apple tree. But it is not necessary to plough and hoe the entire area of the field in which the young trees are planted. The fruit books say that for the first five years the ground should be planted with potatoes, beans, or some low crop that may be hoed; and not laid down to grass. The difference between the size of the trees thus cultivated, at the end of five years, and of those allowed to stand in grass, will be greatly in favour of the former. True; but it is not the land we wish to cultivate, but the tree; it is not potatoes and beans we desire to raise, but to fit the soil in such manner that hereafter it will give food enough to the tree, to enable it to raise large crops of apples. The fruit books say, likewise, that on a space around the trunk of the young tree, equal to the spread of the top, nothing should be grown; the ground should only be hoed, and weeds and grass kept down. This, too, is sound doctrine. But if the surface of the ground, through which the roots extend, is all that the well-being of the tree requires to be cultivated, what