

soil according as you want the drills for the size of the seed; if fine, just mark; for larger ones make the indention deeper; this has the advantage of leaving a nice even bottom, so that none of the seeds are lost. After sowing the seed, again take the sieve and sift lightly over the grooves, and with a trowel fill them level by passing it crossways over them. In sowing, attention should be given to those seeds that will germinate in the same time, such as Phlox Drummondi, Zinnias, Asters, &c. Succulents, such as Portulaccas, Mesembryanthemums, &c., keep to one side, or where they will be in such a position that they can get plenty of sun, and when watering as little water as possible.

Now comes the time when most bad seeds are made. The general plan is to allow the sun full force into the frame, and try to keep the soil wet by continued watering. Neglect for one hour to keep the soil damp at a time when the seeds are germinating is fatal; besides, a hard crust forms on the surface on account of the frequent watering. The plan I follow is to cover up the frame in such a way that the direct rays of the sun are not admitted. Seeds will germinate as well in the dark as in the light. As soon as they are up remove the shade, throwing a few spruce branches over as a partial shade for a few days. If steam occurs allow it to escape by raising the sash on the sheltered end in the heat of the day; if this is not attended to you will have it damp, and lose your plants. Here again you will find the advantage of placing seeds together that will germinate at the same time, as you can still keep those partially covered that have not yet come up. If you attend to these directions your seedsman will always have good seeds, and you will be made happy by success.

In transplanting into another frame before putting them outside, (which should be done in all cases,) if you have not another frame make a bottom of warm manure, box it around so that it will stand well over plants of a good size. Put soil on the top of this, deeper than directed for hot-bed; nail a few strips across so that you can cover with boards in case of frosts or cold winds, which we generally have in the month of May. This plan I prefer to planting again into a frame, as the plants are hardier and receive little check on planting out.

The other cause of failure more generally belongs to outside sowing, which I will treat in another number, with transplanting, bedding, &c. I would not advise seeds to be bought in distinct colors—you can get some mixed, ensuring greater variety at a much less expense.