

**PAMPHLET No. 21.**

**DOMINION OF CANADA.**

**CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.**

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**THE CONSTRUCTION AND CARE OF TOBACCO SEED BEDS IN THE  
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.**

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In view of the severe spring weather in that part of the province of Quebec where tobacco growing is carried on it is absolutely necessary, in order to obtain tobacco plants ready to set out in good time, to observe certain precautions in connection with the seed beds. The use of glazed sashes for these beds is necessary, and also the construction of a fairly hot seed bed, one which can easily be protected against cold weather. However, these precautions are useless if the seed is not sown on sufficiently fertile soil.

*Soil for the Seed Beds.*—For this purpose forest soil, gathered the fall before and placed in a pile after having been mixed with twenty-five per cent of well-rotted barnyard manure, may be used. The pile should be protected from bad weather so that it will not freeze too deeply or be washed out by rains.

Good results are more certain, however, if a mould is specially prepared from a mixture of good light soil and well rotted manure in the proportion of one part of manure to two of soil. This compost should also be prepared well in advance.

One of the best composts is made up of turf, which has been pulled up in strips two inches deep and mixed with manure in the proportion of one part of manure to two parts of turf. The strips of turf are placed in horizontal layers, between every two of which a layer of manure is placed. In view of the fact that the turf decomposes very slowly, this compost should be prepared at least a year before it will be needed for use.

The soil for the seed beds may also be enriched by the use of chemical fertilizers which are spread on the seed bed some days before the seed is sown, at the rate of one ounce of fertilizer to each square foot of seed bed. The fertilizer is mixed with the surface soil to the depth of about one inch and then over the surface is sprinkled about half an inch of fine soil. The composition of commercial fertilizers varies greatly. Good results will be obtained from the use of nitrate of soda alone mixed with fine soil in equal parts. This mixture is spread in the same way as the complete chemical fertilizer and in the same proportions.

*Hot Bed Frames.*—The hot bed frame should be tight, that is, it should be constructed of good material and well made. Planks one inch in thickness will serve this purpose admirably.

The frame is more easily handled if it can be taken to pieces. By this means it can be stored when the season is over and will therefore have a longer period of usefulness. The dimensions of the hot bed frame are not important, at any rate as far as