

HOW TO GROW ONIONS.



ONIONS delight in a rich sandy loam, not too light but porous and friable and free from stones. The preparation of an onion field should begin in the fall. Put on good dressing of stable manure and plow it under and leave it until next spring. How much stable dung to be used cannot be defined here. It depends on the nature and quality of the land. It is well enough to say let the application be liberal, yet there is a limit, when an excess of it may do no harm, neither will the crop be benefited thereby. The following spring, as soon as the ground can be worked, plow again, but shallow. Broadcast some special fertilizer, about 1,500 pounds to the acre. Mix it well with the surface by harrowing thoroughly, and finish with a smoothing harrow to make it as even as a board. If the land be stony, the stones must be raked off by hand. If it be intended to follow onion growing as a special crop, it will be well to buy a regular table seed drill, one that will sow two rows at a time. The one I have reference to sows the rows twelve inches apart. The seed cups are placed between two wheels, which are six inches from the centre of the cups, the wheels thus serving as markers. After sowing roll down the seed. As soon as the seeds are sufficiently up to show the rows, go through them, either with a shuffle hoe or a wheel hoe. I prefer the former. When plants are large enough to handle, thin out to one or two inches. It is not necessary for me to say to keep down weeds, which is best done by going through them with the hoe after every rain.

If sown early enough the onions should be ready to pull in the forepart of August. Should they not ripen fast enough, hasten them by breaking down with the back of a wooden rake. When you are satisfied that the onions have stopped growing, do not delay to pull them, which is best done during a dry spell. Lay them in long rows and leave in the field until perfectly dry. Give them an occasional stirring, and house as soon as dry enough.—Farm and Home.

Potting Cacti.—When potting cacti, all dried roots should be trimmed off; use plenty of sand and charcoal, but little or no water, and roots will form soon. Plenty of sunshine and very little water is the treatment cacti like. February or March is the most suitable time for re-potting, although this may be done at all times of the year. The soil should neither be damp nor dust dry. When the plants are turned out of the pots, shake most of the soil from the roots. See that the roots are spread out and the pots well drained. A handful of sand put directly under the plant will be found very beneficial. Use pots large enough to hold the roots comfortably for all globular varieties. Larger pots are necessary for rapid growing sorts, such as cereuses. Many cacti fail to bloom for a season after re-potting.—Farm and Home.