


COMMERCIAL MELON GROWING UNDER IRRIGATION.



THE watermelon delights in a light sandy soil, while its companion, the cantaloupe, succeeds best on a clay loam, or at least a heavier soil than the former. Both do best on the new land, and as this is about all exhausted that is under irrigation in this section some plan of renewal must be adopted. We are having very good success by allowing the land to produce a crop of corn every other year, but it seems the best results will be obtained by plowing under alfalfa sod and growing about two crops of melons in succession on the same land.

The ground for melons should be irrigated during the winter or early spring, so that when plowed and harrowed in April it will hold moisture long enough to bring up the plants, seeds of which should be planted about the first of May, or after the soil has become warm enough to hasten germination. The furrows for irrigation are made before planting and should be run in the direction the water will run most readily, the tools generally used being either a single shovel or six inch diamond plow. For watermelons these furrows should be about nine or ten feet apart, and the hills about eight feet in the row. Cantaloupes need less room, and six by four feet will do very well.

The planting is usually done with a hoe; a hole about two inches deep is drawn out, into which five or six seeds are scattered, when the soil is replaced and firmed a little with the back of the hoe. When this is accomplished the top of the hill should be on a level with the land, and the seeds about on a level with the edge of the water when it comes slowly down the furrow in irrigating during the summer. Then the plants when they come up should be near enough the brink of the furrow to get their roots thoroughly saturated, but never be flooded. The ground between the rows should be kept free of weeds and well cultivated, while the hoe should be brought into frequent use around the hill, and when the plants get large enough to judge of their vitality they should be thinned to about two or three of the strongest, standing two or three inches apart in the hill.—FRANK CROWLEY, Col., in *American Agriculturist*.

Growing Cucumbers for Pickling.—Growing cucumbers so as to have a large quantity of small ones for pickling, is quite a distinct art of culture from growing them for ordinary uses. In order to have them bear abundantly, and not get large, they are usually sown in long ridges, and suffered to grow up rather thickly together. The vines are continually being pinched back, in order that they may produce a large number of comparatively small shoots, which naturally produce weaker cucumbers than larger and stronger shoots would. They usually bring, at wholesale, from fifteen to twenty dollars a bushel.—*Meehans' Monthly*.