

turnings this will be reduced to about one common cart load by the time it is required for the bed. It might be as well to mention here that in turning over the material it may be necessary to add water to make it heat properly. There should never be any dry patches (fire-fang) allowed in hotbed material, or in fact in any material required to be used as manure, it is useless afterwards.

The material to form the hotbed being now, say about the middle of April, in first-class condition, turn the whole over on to the place, making it one foot larger each way than the box to be placed on it, shaking and mixing the whole as it is put on. Make it firm with repeated taps with the back of the fork; when finished, the manure should be firm enough to carry a man without his foot sinking more than about three inches into it. This sort of a bed will not blaze up and burn everything that will be sown in it; then ultimately you might trace the cause of all the disappointments of your seedsman, who, honest man, does not know, and should not be blamed when perfectly innocent, for the disappointments sure to follow in trying to grow seeds in a place, nine times out of ten, constructed on improved principles to kill everything of vegetable nature. Very few seeds will stand more than 90°; and almost all annuals will succeed much better if never subjected to a higher bottom heat than 75°. The soil is another consideration of some importance; not that it requires to be extra good, but light and friable being more suitable. In fact, any good garden soil will answer very well with the addition of sand if of a

stiff nature to make it free and open. The quantity has more to do with success than quality, and in no case should less than four inches to six inches be used. The sorts of annuals requiring the greatest heat might be sown on the part where the four inches is used, and plants of a hardier nature, such as stocks, asters, etc., sown on the thicker part of the bed. Shading, airing, and watering being about all that is required after sowing until some of the small seedlings may require to have a first transplanting. Many plants are improved by this transplanting, giving them not only more root, but more head space. In fact, it is about impossible to produce good healthy plants of many of the different sorts of both flowers and vegetables without transplanting them. Shading the hotbed before the seedlings appear above the soil is good practice, inasmuch as plants do not require light to germinate, and it also has the further advantage of retaining the moisture, or at least not allowing the soil to become parched by the sun. Watering should be done only when necessary, and this done efficiently through a fine rosed watering pot, as many of the small seed or plants would be washed out if done too roughly. Ventilation is also one of the imperative attentions demanded to secure success in the hotbed. It is better to err on the safe side here; as to neglect giving air for a couple of hours on a sunny forenoon would most likely finish everything. The giving of air less or more, according to the state of the weather must by no means be neglected.

—Report Montreal Hort. Soc.

