



## PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
(HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).

### Egg-plant and Pepper Growing in the B.C. Dry Belt.

THESE two crops require practically the same treatment, about the only difference being that the egg-plants are not quite as hardy; hence the plants require more careful handling, and when setting in the field they require rather more room than the peppers.

The seeds for these crops should be started in greenhouse or hotbed early in March, and should be given the warmest part of the house for starting the seeds, as well as afterwards for the growing of the plants. A night temperature of 55 to 60 degrees, with an addition of 15 degrees during daylight, is not too much for good growth, provided a little ventilation is given every day when weather will permit.

When the plants have developed their first pair of rough or true leaves they should be transplanted to stand  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches apart, and care should be taken that the plants do not suffer for want of water at any time, as they require rather more than most vegetable-plants do.

Two transplantings are usually sufficient, but the grower should watch that the plants do not become crowded too much, or they will grow tall and slender, a condition always to be avoided with vegetable-plants.

A very satisfactory method for handling the plants of these, as well as all other vegetable-plants which are grown under glass for removing to the field for producing their crop, is to use shallow boxes, or "flats" as they are called by gardeners. They should be uniform in size, so no space will be lost in placing them together on the benches. A satisfactory size is 12 x 22 x 4 inches deep inside measure; the