

pasteboard, and one plant be set in each separate division. This will be found very convenient in transplanting, as each plant can be taken out with its own ball of earth about the roots, without in the least disturbing its growth.

Water when the soil needs water, but not oftener, and use tepid water. Give plenty of light, and when the weather is mild enough, set the box out for a few hours in the open air on the sunny side of the house, until the plants can be safely placed in the cold frame.

The cold frame is merely a wall of boards, such as is placed on a hotbed to protect the plants, which may be placed in some warm, sunny spot, and be covered with boards when needed to protect the plants from storm or cold.

In our climate the weather is usually mild enough to allow of the plants being placed in such a frame about the first of May, and if they have been freely exposed to light and air, they will be stocky and healthy. Here they will continue to grow, not rapidly, but gradually increasing in size and strength, until the weather will admit of their being placed in the open ground. Treated in this way, any one of them will be worth a hundred long-drawn, puny, sickly things that have been grown in heat and crowd.—*Globe*.

HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE TO SOW SEEDS.

[From Peter Henderson's "Gardening for Profit."]

As the seed-sowing is the starting point of cropping, a thorough knowledge of the conditions necessary for the germination of the different varieties will go far towards putting the tyro in gardening well on the way to success. The very general want of knowledge in this matter is too often the cause of much undeserved censure upon the seedsman, for in nine cases out of ten the failure is not with the seeds but results from the time or manner of planting. When the owner of a garden sends his order for seeds to the seedsman, it is generally a complete list of all he wants for the season. They are received and the interesting operation of sowing is begun; first in a hot-bed, if he has one, often as early as the first week in February (a month too soon by the way), and in go indiscriminately, at the same date, and under the same sash, his seeds of Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, and Egg Plant, Peppers and Tomatoes. Yet even in the waning heat of this early hot-bed, where a thermometer would possibly not indicate more than fifty degrees, he finds in a week or so his Cabbage, Lettuce, and Cauliflower, "coming through" nicely, but, as yet no Egg Plants, Peppers, or Tomatoes. He impatiently waits another week, makes an examination, and discovers that instead

of his Tomatoes and Egg Plants beginning to vegetate, they are commencing to rot, it is now plain to him that he has been cheated; he has been sold old seed, and if he does nothing worse, he forever after looks upon the seedsman he has patronized as a venial wretch, destitute of principle and honesty. But he must have Tomatoes, Peppers, and Egg Plants, and he buys again from another seedsman, warranted honest. He renews his hot-bed, it is now a month later, and a bright March sun, with milder nights, gives him the proper temperature in his hot-bed—70 or 80 degrees—and his eyes are at last gladdened by the sprouting of the troublesome seed. April comes with warm sunshine, inviting him to begin to "make garden" outside. He has yet the balance of the original lot of seeds that he bought in February. But as he is still entirely befogged about the cause of his failure in the first hot-bed, he begins his open ground operations with little confidence in his seeds, but as he has got them, they may as well be tried; and again he sows in the same day his Peas and Lima Beans, Radishes and Pumpkins, Onions and Sweet Corn. Hardy and tender get the same treatment. The result must of necessity be the same as it was in the hot-bed, the hardy seeds duly vegetate, while the tender are of course rotted. This time he is not surprised, for he is already convinced that seedsman No. 1 is a rascal, and only wonders how any of his seeds grew at all, so he again orders from seedsman No. 2, for the articles that have failed. Here circumstances continue to favor the latter, for by this time the season has advanced in its temperature and the seeds duly vegetate. Every farmer knows that, in this latitude, he can sow Oats or Wheat in March or April, but that if he sows his Corn or Pumpkins at the same time, they will perish: this he knows, but he may not know that what is true of the crops of the farm, is equally true of the garden. Hence the importance of a knowledge of the season, when to sow vegetable seeds, or set out plants. The temperature best fitted for the germination of seeds of the leading kinds will be best understood by the tabular form given below.

Vegetable seeds that may be sown in this latitude, from the middle of March to the end of April, Thermometer in the shade, averaging 45 degrees.

Beet,	Lettuce,
Carrot,	Parsley,
Cress,	Parsnip,
Celery,	Onions.
Cabbage,	Peas,
Cauliflower,	Radish,
Endive,	Turnip,
Kale,	Spinach,

Vegetable seeds that may be sown in the open ground, in this latitude, from the

middle of May to the middle of June, Thermometer in the shade, averaging 60 degrees.

Lima Beans,	Water Melon,
Bush Beans,	Squash,
Cranberry Pole Beans,	Pumpkin,
Scarlet Runner Beans,	Tomato,
Sweet Corn,	Nasturtium,
Musk Melon,	Okra,
Cucumber.	

It will be understood that these dates refer only to the latitude of New York: farther south, operations should be begun earlier; farther north, later. [In Nova Scotia the vegetables enumerated in the first list are sown as soon as the ground can be worked; those of the second list late in May or early in June.—ED. J. A.] So much for the time of sowing; I will now refer to suitable soil and the manner of sowing. The choice of soil, when choice can be made, is of great importance, the best being a light soil, composed of leaf mold sand, and loam, the next substitute for leaf mold being well decayed stable manure, or better yet, decayed refuse hops from the breweries; in short anything of this nature that will tend to lighten the soil, the point to be avoided being a weight of soil, either from the nature or quantity of it.

The nature of the soil is not of so much importance for the germination of large, vigorous seeds, as Peas, Beets, Beans, Corn, etc. But with the delicate, slow-sprouting sorts, as Celery, Parsnip, Egg Plant, or peppers, it is of much importance. Seeds of nearly every garden vegetable should be sown in rows; the distance apart, according to the variety, and the depth proportioned to the size of the seed. No better information can be given in this matter, than the old rule of covering the seed with about its thickness of soil, but this should always be followed up by having the soil pressed closely down. In our market gardens here, we invariably have the ground rolled after sowing, or in frames or hot-beds, where the roller cannot be used, we pat the soil evenly down with a spade after sowing. This may not be of so much consequence in early Spring, when the atmosphere is moist, but as the season advances, it is of great importance. I have seen many acres of Carrots and Parsnips lost for want of this simple attention; the covering of the seeds being loose, the heated air penetrates through, drying the seeds to shrivelling, so that they can never vegetate. My farmer readers no doubt, have had plenty of similar experience with Turnips, where they have been sown broadcast without rolling. Another advantage of rolling after seed sowing is that it leaves the surface smooth and level, thereby lessening greatly the labor of hoeing. Instead of adopting the questionable practice of steeping seeds, preparatory to sowing in dry, hot weather,