which means a great deal of extra work, and work that needs the closest attention. If they are neglected at certain critical times, much labor and plants are lost.

The most critical period in raising melon plants in a hotbed is at the time of germination, and just after they have made their appearance. The best temperature for growing melons at this particular time is from 75 to 80 degrees; in fact, this temperature is the best for them at any time. After being planted in the open, however, they have to stand sometimes a temperature not much above freezing. Hence, it is well to get them used to as low a temperature as possible a week or so before moving them into the open field. This will make them hardy and strong.

In starting the melon in the hotbed, it has to be done so that when it is moved into the open, the roots will not be disturbed. Melon plants will not "transplant," in the true sense of the word. It is necessary to plant them either in pieces of sod or in pots. These can be moved to the field without interfering with the roots.

Some growers use pots instead of sod, claiming that the plant takes root quicker in pots because the sod is full of grass fibres. I have tried both, and have not noticed any difference in this respect. For other reasons, I prefer the use of sods. There are distinct advantages in using sod. Pots have to be filled with the choicest of soil, and this has to be found every time you plant; they cannot be handled so easily as the sod when drawing out to the field, and they have to be cared for and stored from one year to the other. With the sod, you simply have to cut, place closely in the frame and plant. When drawing to the field have them well soaked with water. Make your hole deep enough so that the sod will be two inches below the level.

Where the land is in good condition, watermelons should be planted at least seven feet apart each way, as although a large fruit, it grows a long, slender vine with small foliage. Muskmelons can be planted much closer. Five feet each way is the usual distance. Three plants in a hill are plenty.

Both kinds are prolific. An acre of muskmelons is capable of producing 800 dozen, and watermelons from 400 to 500 dozen, weighing possibly some 50 tons. These figures estimate an excellent crop and a possible one.

Celery a Profitable Crop*

J. Friendship, Kingston, Ontario

Celery is one of the most profitable crops that the market gardener grows, providing he has land suitable for its culture. It can be grown on almost any good soil, but on some the crop will not pay for the labor. The soil I prefer is one that is always mellow and does not get too wet or too dry. Such land is found in a hollow where in former years may have been a small lake whose bed is now covered with rich humus, 12 to 20 inches deep, with a blue clay bottom. Such soil will retain moisture and, if properly drained, seldom gets too wet. On such soil celery can be grown at one-quarter the cost of that grown on stiff or harsh soil. On proper soil the work from start to finish is easily done. Where such soil is not available, the land must be made as near it as possible by plowing and the working in of several dressings of good, rich, well-rotted stable manure. The harsher the soil, the more humus is required to make it mellow. When the soil is in this condition, it should be well ridged in the fall so that no surface water can remain. In the spring, it should not be worked until dry. It then should be well worked and kept mellow until planted. It is a hard job to set out from 25,000 to 50,000 celery in stiff, dry soil.

GROWING THE PLANTS

In growing the plants the best soil that can be secured is necessary. Celery seed is slow to germinate and should be kept shaded until it appears above ground. Cover the seed very lightly and keep the soil moist, but not wet. The plants are hardy, but grow slowly. Weeds grow much quicker and should be removed as soon as seen. As soon as the plants form the second leaf they can be set in another bed, if you prefer transplanted plants. If not, they should be thinned out so as to get strong, rooty plants. The majority of gardeners do not use transplanted plants. They prefer setting direct from the seed bed, unless they intend growing celery for summer use. For that purpose, the seed should be sown in March in a well-prepared hotbed and, when large enough, removed to another bed, setting them three inches by two inches, so as to form good plants.

There is great danger of celery plants running to seed if they receive a severe check in growth. Great care is required in the setting and growing. I have seen nearly the whole setting of early celery lost by it running to seed. Late sowing should be done about the first of May or later. Late sown seed needs the same care as early. The soil requires to be kept moist. It dries out much quicker in May than in April.

*Extract from the first prize essay on Celery Culture, in the competition conducted by the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.

The Old Way

The New Way

Near cities, where market gardeners apply large quantities of manure to their land, the use of manure spreaders is becoming more general. Near Toronto, Mr. Joseph Rush, of Humber Bay, who uses one of these machines, writes us that with it he spreads 12 tons of manure to the acre. The machine is handled easily by two horses. When loaded evenly, from front to back, it spreads long, green manure as well as any other kind. Mr. Rush applies his manure at the rate of 50 loads an acre, and reports that he considers the manure spreader one of the best labor-saving devices on his place