

- Spawn may be purchased in bricks of all seedsmen for the start in mushroom culture; once begun and any of the white spawn-flecked earth of an old bed will answer for planting new beds.

For inserting, the bricks or pieces of spawn are first broken to half the size of a hand lengthwise, or some less. These are placed into the top and other exposed surfaces of the bed, at about ten inches apart, and half as deep, covering up firmly. After some ten days spread over the bed about three inches of fresh loam, and then wait for your crop. This should begin to show a few weeks later, varying somewhat according to temperature.

It is often possible to dispense with watering the beds, this being only necessary when the surface gets quite dry. Then water carefully, using water heated to about 100 degrees.

By making up beds at intervals of ten or twelve weeks throughout the year a continuous supply of mushrooms may be secured. The product is usually salable at all seasons in limited quantities. It is to be hoped that the consumption of this valuable food article will greatly increase in the near future. Let our readers in general inaugurate the growing and using of mushrooms commonly.—Popular Gardening.

Raising Cuttings in Water.—Almost any plants with comparatively hard wood, can be made to root by being placed in bottles of water. The oleander is a familiar illustration—the ivy also can be easily raised this way. After the roots have become strong in the water, the plants can be taken out and placed in earth. For this, perhaps it is better to let the water continue stagnant in the bottles—a change of water is not beneficial. In these cases, the gases necessary to aid in the life of the plant are furnished by the decaying materials which cause the water to become stagnant. Even soft-wood cuttings will root readily in sand with water. A saucer of sand, for instance, filled with water, is all that is needed to root many soft-wood cuttings. These saucers with the cuttings should be kept shaded for a day or two, and then placed in the full light. If placed at once in the full light they are liable to wilt.—Meehans' Monthly for January.

Top-Dressing Lawns.—To make a bright green sward next season, a good top-dressing on the lawn, during the winter, should not be neglected, and the earlier the work is accomplished, the greater will be the result. The continuous mowing during the summer, without giving any stimulant to the soil, soon weakens the grass until it finally dies out. Well-rotted manure for the winter is probably the best remedy, though many prefer to use wood-ashes, guano, ground bone or other commercial fertilizers, as being less likely to introduce seeds of noxious weeds.—Meehans' Monthly for January.