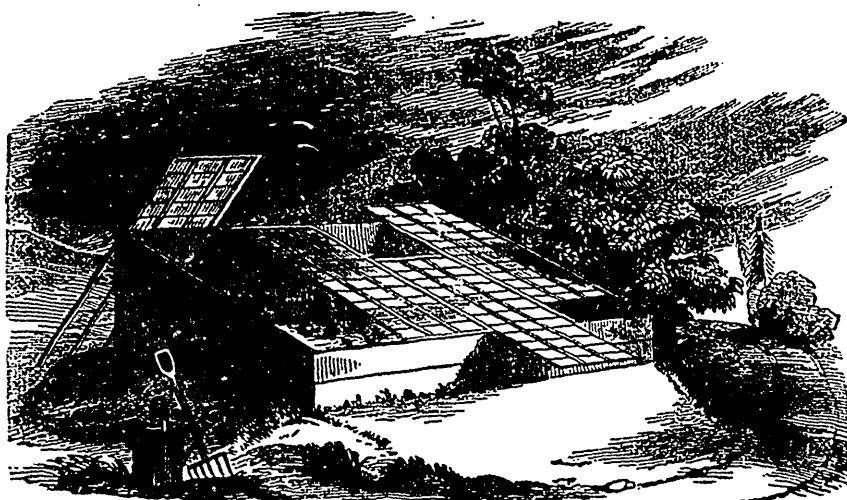


HOT BEDS

While to the professional, or market gardener, the hot bed is an essential adjunct, to the family garden it is a very convenient appendage; enabling one to produce the choice products of the garden several weeks earlier than they can be had otherwise. Many are deterred from constructing a hot bed from an erroneous impression that the trouble and expense are greater than the advantage to be derived therefrom. Necessarily the expense may not be very large, as a cheaply constructed frame and good glazed sash, if properly taken care of, are the cheapest, as they will last quite a number of years, and the outlay of a few dollars to start with will enable one to have all the advantages to be derived from a good hot bed. One other objection is

18 inches deep. Fill this and raise it about a foot above the surface with the manure, and on this place the frame and bank up with earth, covering the manure five or six inches or more, outside the frame; place the sash on and let the manure steam. When the heat has subsided to about 90°—it will go to 100° or more—spread on five or six inches of fine rich garden mould, well filled with vegetable matter, and in this, after warming up a few hours, sow your seed in drills from front to back side of the bed. The bed should face the south to receive the full benefit of the sun's rays. Beginners are too apt to sow their seed in the hot beds before the heat begins to subside, and thus lose them, and from the failure thus induced, become discouraged; whereas had they hurried *more slowly*, success would have attended their efforts.



HOT BED.

often urged—the amount of manure needed for a bed. This need be no objection, for the manure may be taken for other purposes after being used in the bed, and being well decomposed is admirably fitted for later crops. Frames constructed of good plank, and as often recommended with iron hoops on the ends of the sides, to pass through mortices in end pieces at the corners, and fastened by inserting keys through the loops, will make the most convenient ones, as they may be most readily taken apart, when through with the season, and packed away so as to occupy but little space. Sash of three by six feet, well glazed and painted, are about as handy as any size and as frequently used by market gardeners as any. The reader will have no trouble in understanding the principle of a hot bed with grass as shown by the above cut. In constructing the bed it is preferable to excavate a pit about a foot larger on every side than the frame, and some

We have stated that manure for heating is needed, this is of the greatest importance, and also that it should be of lasting material that the heat may be continued as long as possible. Horse stable manure, plentifully supplied with strawy litter, is commonly used, as this is of a quicker nature than other animal manure. This should be thrown into a heap under cover, as thrown from the stall, a few days before being used—having one half its bulk in leaves mixed with it and firmly trod. In the absence, one-half the quantity of cow manure, well littered, may be used to make it compact. In a few days it will begin to heat, which is known by the steam rising. When well steaming throw it over, mixing it well and keep it trim, to prevent having frozen lumps. etc. When used in the bed, spread it evenly over the whole surface, beating it down with the fork well, and if lightly trod to pack and keep even, no harm is done. The object is to keep an even