

better,) and some sand, coal ash dust or saw-dust. A few well broken up bones are sovereign. Dig it in, spading the ground to a depth of 14 inches. Then, stretching a line to mark your drill, spade out (or trowel out) a little trench, underneath the line, about six inches deep and six inches wide. Fill this trenchlet with the best, rich, sifted, sandy, mellow soil you can get. Old hot-bed earth will do. Sow your seeds along this row of earth under the line which marks the drill. Mix them with some sand if you wish to secure even sowing. Press the seeds well down with a narrow strip of board, or tread them in by walking heel to toe along the drill, so that when each tiny rootlet starts it may find fine soil close to it to which to attach the sucker at its end, and not wither away because it happens to emerge in a hollow. This, so to speak, is *indispensable*. Then water freely. Lastly, cover the seeds very thinly with dry sand or fine soil. Seeds should be covered to the depth of seven times their diameter. Seven times the diameter of a sweet pea is about half an inch, and seven times the diameter of a portulaca seed is seven times nothing, which is nothing; for 7 x 0 = 0.—Q. E. D.

In a few days the cress and radishes will appear and mark the line along which the other seeds are to come up. You can then weed and mulch between the drills, fearlessly, with long knife, spade, hoe and the shove (or Dutch) hoe, or "push hoe," as it is called near Montreal.

The *most* useful time to weed is before the cotledyons or seed-leaves of your flowers appear.

Henceforward, water freely, with water and manure-water in turns, along the middle of the spaces between the drills, near the seeds, and not over the seeds themselves.

When your seeds are well started, transplant and thin out to a foot or more apart. As for your cress and radishes, they have fulfilled their object. Treat them as the converted Zulu did his superfluous wives, "Eat 'em." If a few plants of extra curled cress be allowed to grow to 6 inches high in a shady spot, you can cut and come again to them for salad the whole summer long.

Those who cannot start their seed in hot-bed or window-box will do well to buy plants.