

are sown on the flat bed, first give the manure a thorough soaking of water, then the sun will draw the moisture upwards to the top of the soil, which will be very beneficial to the seedlings, being much better than overhead watering, as the seedlings are liable to be drowned out and the soil cake very hard that way. The soil to be used should be placed on top of the bed inside the frame, after the latter is placed in position. Get some good loamy soil and put it about four to six inches deep, fairly rough; then get some finer soil, decayed leaves, a little sand, mix it all well together, and place on top of the rougher soil about two inches deep. Next make it moderately firm with a flat board or back of a spade and rake over the surface evenly to remove anything in the shape of stones or lumps and the bed is then ready for sowing seed on. As to temperature, a thermometer can be placed on a nail inside the frame and sixty degrees will suit to start the seed in, rising a little during the daytime. Always buy good seed, if it costs a little more it pays in the end. Sow in small plots, keeping each plot separate by laying narrow sticks flat between them, and carefully labelling each plot with name of seed sown. Sow the seeds evenly and thinly to prevent overcrowding, as the seedlings will be weakly if that happens. After sowing the seeds, sprinkle some fine soil over just to cover them, and close the lights till the seeds germinate, shading with some light material during the hottest part of the day, and if likely to become very cold during the night, throw old bags or any protective material over the frame to prevent the temperature from falling. When the seedlings appear, good attention must be given to shading and ventilating to keep them from being scorched by the sun, and see they don't become very dry. A good way to ventilate is to lift the tops of the lights, open a little at first, placing a good sized stone between the light and the top of frame, and when more air is required, place them top and bottom alternately. This will give a good circulation of air all over the bed, keeping the plants hardy. As the plants advance more air can be given, and during the heat of the day the lights may be pulled right off. So much for the flat bed system. Now, if they are to be grown in pots, tins or boxes, first cut a thin strip out of the bottom of the boxes, or punch a few small holes in the bottoms of the tins to allow any excess of moisture to escape. Place some turfy soil or leaves in the bottom of these, then fill with soil prepared as for the bed, press moderately firm, let the top of the soil be about an inch lower than the top of tin or box, sow the seeds thereon, covering lightly with fine soil. To water them get a tub full of water and hold each receptacle in it almost to the top and let the water go in the bottom holes, and gradually work up through the soil, till it comes just through the top. This will prevent the seeds becoming washed out. Next place them quite level, inside the frame and give an eye to shading, watering and ventilating as recommended for the flat bed. When the seedlings get large enough to handle, they should be pricked out carefully into a sheltered bed, three inches apart, shading them till they are established, where they will develop into strong plants for the final planting. For this final planting, choose a good open position, give good, deep cultivation and liberal manuring, this being a great help in hot, dry weather. Keep the hoe or other cultivator going to keep down weeds, etc. When transplanting get a good ball of soil on each plant if possible to prevent flagging. Cabbages, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, etc., and many kinds of flowers may be raised in this way.

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THE HOUSEWIFE'S GARDEN

In order to have success in gardening one would be wise to use care in the selection of the seed, for the best seed is important, as is also the soil, which should be fairly rich. During the winter and early spring months barnyard manure should be scattered evenly over the ground. The quantity to use depends upon the present condition of

your soil. A light dressing would in some cases be sufficient. In spring when the ground is in shape for work to commence, plow the manure under, following with the harrow as early as possible. To make sure of having tomatoes when no hotbed is used, it is necessary to sow the seeds early in the spring in a box filled with fine earth. Cigar boxes are best for this purpose. After filling the box, I let them stand a day or so in a warm room before sowing the seeds. After sowing the seeds I keep the soil moist with tepid water and cover the box with a cloth until the tiny sprouts appear, after which the cloth is removed and they are exposed to the sun. When the plants have made some progress, they should be transplanted to other boxes. It will toughen the plants, if they are set outside during the day, when the temperature is above freezing.

They may be transplanted to the open ground when all danger from frost is past. The New Earliana tomato is recommended as being the best here in the West.

The best location for the hotbed is on the south side of the building. Make the bed the desired size. For instance, a bed that is six feet long and six feet wide will accommodate two regular-sized sashes, three by six feet. The back of the frame should be 16 inches and the front about eight inches high. This gives sufficient fall for water from rains or snows to drain off nicely. The manure should be handled directly from the stalls to the bed, and piled in a heap, leaving it until fermentation has set up. Horse manure is the best to use. Before fermentation becomes too lively, which is ascertained by the escaping steam, the pile should be forked over

into another part of the frame and left until the escape of steam is again noticeable, then it should be tramped into the frame perfectly solid, and then the soil put on. When the seed of weeds which are in the soil come up all over the bed, it is time to plant the garden seed.

An excellent way in which to start plants when one has not a hotbed, is to select a piece of ground protected from the wind. Have a frame around the plot, which must be well manured and drenched, and the soil put on next. Cabbage seed, etc., sowed in a plot like this do real well. They must of course be covered with carpet and the like every night to protect them from the cold, having poles across the bed to support the covering. Of cabbage the Early Jersey Wakefield is, in my opinion, the best to grow. When transplanting cab-

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