

Any action which will conserve moisture in the field will lessen the shock which the plants must feel when transferred from the pampered life of the hotbed to the more rigorous one outside.

The writer well remembers a certain patch of three acres which was to be planted in melons in 1913. One half of the field was plowed early and kept in mulch, while the other half was plowed only soon enough to allow for planting out. The line of division could be noted during the entire season; on one side—that which had been worked early—were dark green vines on which was a fair crop of very well shaped and netted melons, while on the other part, were vines much paler in color, bearing a crop of rather undersized melons, remarkably lacking in netting.

The soil should be especially rich in potash and phosphoric acid, the reason for this becoming apparent when one thinks of the large amount of seed which is produced by a fruitful plant, and it is a well-known fact that it is this part of the plant which draws most deeply upon these elements.

One difficulty with which the grower has to contend is melon sickness. This is a condition which appears in land which has borne a crop of melons successively for several years. The exact nature of the condition is not known, but it is supposed that the roots of the plant throw out a toxin which, accumulating year after year, prevents the proper growth of later crops.

This brings upon the grower the necessity of a rotation. Tomatoes are most generally used, but they appear to be very similar to melons in their demands on the soil, and in practice, are not altogether satisfactory. Strawberries are much better, and on

land which is moist enough, this is probably the best crop.

It would not be advisable to describe cultural methods in detail except on one or two points, as there is nothing unusual in them to discuss.

The seed should be sown in fresh well made hotbeds about May 1st, and must either be sown in three inch clay pots, or in four inch square inverted sods. Paper-dirt bands are not found satisfactory for melons. It was only by watching the progress of thousands of plants, grown under similar conditions by each of the two former methods, that a satisfactory conclusion was reached.

It appears that seed sown in inverted sods will produce a more uniform stand of seedlings, and a higher percentage of germination will result, the difference in this point being quite marked in many cases. However, when the plants grown in pots are planted in the field, they rarely wilt, and do not seem to suffer any serious setback, while those in sods often take a week to get over wilting.

When taking into account both the difficulty of obtaining suitable sod, the cost of the pots, and the labor of taking care of them, it seems that the best practice is to use three inch pots and by sowing from six to eight seeds in a pot, to get as good a stand of plants as possible.

It is unnecessary to say that shallow horse and hand cultivation should be maintained until the fruit has attained a large size. It is also good to apply a small amount of sodium nitrate to each hill within a few days after planting out.

With reference to the question of insects and diseases, all that can be said is that preventive measures only are reliable. The chief insect enemy is the small striped cucumber beetle, the