

CHAPTER VII

THE ROOT—THE FORMS OF ROOTS

The Root System.—The offices of the root are *to hold the plant in place*, and *to gather food*. Not all the food materials, however, are gathered by the roots.



FIG. 32.—TAP-ROOT SYSTEM OF ALFALFA.

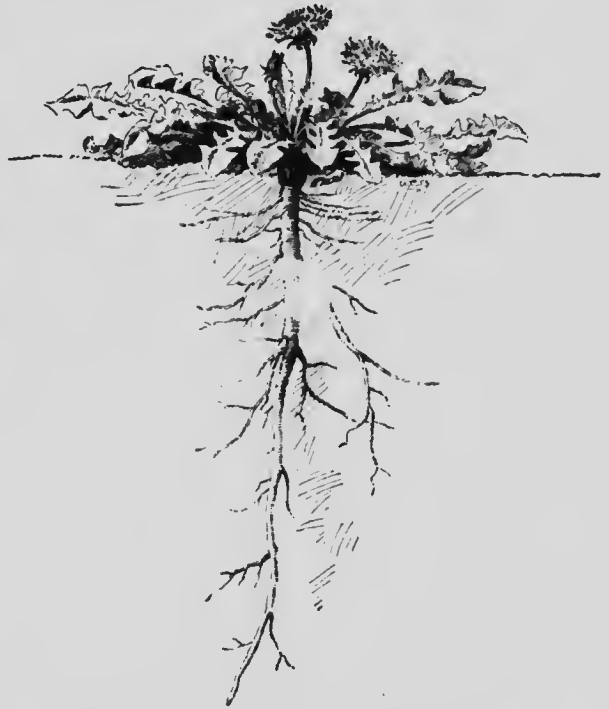


FIG. 33.—TAP-ROOT OF THE DANDELION.

The entire mass of roots of any plant is called its **root system**. The root system may be annual, biennial or perennial, herbaceous or woody, deep or shallow, large or small.

Kinds of Roots.—A strong leading central root, which runs directly downwards, is a **tap-root**. The tap-root forms