

should run north and south so that each plant may get the largest amount of sunshine. The places for the plants in the rows are usually indicated by running over the ground with a corn marker. Some prefer to ridge the ground before planting, and claim that subsequent cultivation can be carried on with less injury to the plants where this method is practised. If the ground be flat or heavy this plan is preferred, but on lighter soils with good drainage the plants may be successfully grown either with or without ridging.

When the plants in the seed bed are 4 to 5 inches high and the largest leaves from 2 to 2½ inches wide they are ready for the field. Before any are lifted the bed should be thoroughly sprinkled with water so that the earth may adhere to the roots. A cloudy day after a shower of rain is preferred for transplanting, but if the plants are carefully removed with a ball of earth attached to the roots of each they may be set out with fair success, provided the ground is reasonably moist, without waiting for such specially favourable conditions. Small plants should not be used, it is better to wait a few days until they are of the proper size. When planting, a basket of plants is carried by a boy up between the rows when one is dropped at each side where indicated by the marker; the men follow and put them in the ground, using a planting peg or the finger for this purpose, pressing the earth carefully about the roots. Where the plantation is very large, a planting machine is sometimes used. Messrs. Walker Sons use the Bemis' planter by which with one pair of horses, driver and two men to tend the machine, about twenty thousand plants may be set per day.

Some experiments have been tried at the Central Experimental Farm as to the effects of twice transplanting. The plants were pricked out from the hot-bed to cold frames, where they were set in rows 8 inches apart, and about 3 inches apart in the rows, and after they had grown strong and stocky they were transplanted to the field. It was observed that when treated in this way the plants grew more rapidly and there were fewer failures in planting than when they were transplanted directly from the hot-bed to the field. The yield of leaf was also larger. When transplanting from the beds the thinning should be so carried out as to give the remaining plants more room and thus permit of a spreading stocky growth.

CULTIVATION.

After planting, the ground should be stirred with a one-horse cultivator about once in ten or twelve days, so as to keep the land thoroughly clean from weeds, and in a porous and mellow condition. Frequent cultivation will also induce more favourable conditions of moisture. This should be continued as long as the cultivator can be passed through the rows without injuring the plants. After this, as the roots of the plants will then almost fill the space between the rows, the ground should be kept clean by shallow hoeing.