

places in November. To secure the earlier supply the plants should be set out in July.

RAISING THE PLANTS.

The seed should be sown about the second week in May. Those who have not a heated greenhouse will find a hotbed covered with a frame answers admirably for this purpose. The manure should be turned over several times, and well shaken to remove all knots. Two or three weeks should be given to the preparation of the manure, as it is desirable to remove all rankness and to secure a gentle and dry heat. The seed should be sown in shallow boxes; too much soil encourages deep rooting and soft plants. Scatter the seed rather thinly, as crowded seedlings are weak. Pricking-off should be done as soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle. The boxes for pricking the plants into should be shallow, the depth being limited to enable the roots to quickly take possession of all the soil, and also to economize labour; 3 in. deep inside measurement is ample. Allow the young plants a space of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. each way. No more water should be given than suffices to keep the plants growing, and this will be comparatively little at the season in question. The soil in the boxes should be mainly fairly good loam, with a little very old manure, and sand if required to keep it open; a small proportion of wood-ashes is also useful. To prepare the boxes, first put in a layer of stable manure that is in a half-decayed littery condition, and not in a wet state. After being pressed down the manure should nearly half-fill the box. Heap the box up with soil and stroke off the surplus with a piece of batten, so as to leave it level-full; press the soil moderately firm with a piece of board, and then mark out the lines for the seedlings by pressing in a strip of lath at the required distances. The boxes of seedlings should be returned to the hotbed; bottom heat encourages root-growth; abundant ventilation will ensure firm and stocky plants. When sufficiently grown the plants should be placed in the house to harden for a week or two before they are planted.

FRAMES FOR RAISING THE PLANTS.

If the plants are to be raised on hotbeds, or later for outdoor culture, frames will be required. It may be as well to say here that except for use on hotbeds frames are not recommended where large numbers of plants are to be raised. Low-roofed, narrow houses are more economically worked, are built at less cost, and are less costly to maintain in repair. A convenient size for a frame would be one that would carry lights 6 ft. by 3 ft. To carry lights of those dimensions the ends of the frame should be 5 ft. 9 in. wide, the back 2 ft. high, and the front 1 ft. high. The sides should be 1 in. totara or