

reduced in the tin, and add sufficient water to cover them by a good margin; there is no danger of using too much water. When the wax is melted, remove the tin from the fire and place it in a sheltered place to cool. Do not hasten the cooling process by undue exposure, as slow cooling affords time for the heavier foreign matter to settle. When cool the wax should be taken out and as much as possible of the accumulated foreign matter scraped off. It should then be broken up and reduced to as small a compass as possible, placed in a bag of scrim or similar porous material, and melted again to remove the remaining particles of foreign matter. If the wax is not required for manufacture into foundation it will sell more readily if run into small moulds similar to patty-pans.

PLANTING FOR SHELTER AND BEE-FORAGE.

This being the planting season, any contemplated provision of additional shelter or forage for the bees should be attended to without delay. Tagasaste, commonly called "tree-lucerne," is a rapidly growing hedge-plant which can be recommended (if protected from cattle), as it yields an abundance of forage for the bees at a time when this is most valuable. As tagasaste does not transplant very readily the plants will require careful treatment when received from the nursery. If grown from seed the best results will be obtained by sowing in the early spring. To assist germination the seed should be first steeped in boiling water to which a little washing-soda has been added. Pour on the water and let it stand until quite cold; this will soften the seed, and, after straining, the addition of a little dry sand will separate it nicely for sowing. It is important that seeds treated in this manner be sown immediately.

The ground should be thoroughly worked (as for onions), and if, as is recommended, a double row is contemplated the width of the prepared bed should be not less than 4 ft. Sow the seeds three in a place, at a distance of 3 ft. apart and 1 ft. from the edge of the bed on either side, alternating the second row with the first—this gives 2 ft. between the rows. Thin out the plants when they have made sufficient growth to the strongest in each place.

Tagasaste is subject to the borer, and while it is an excellent temporary hedge-plant, it cannot be depended on to provide permanent shelter. The giant-growing privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) can be recommended for this purpose. It is a gross feeder, its roots extending in time several yards from the base on either side. For a single row a strip 3 ft. in width should be deeply dug, and if the ground is poor a liberal dressing of bonedust supplied. Select strong two- or three-year-old plants, and plant them 18 in. apart along the centre of the prepared ground. To secure a good bottom growth it will be necessary to clip the plants back fairly hard at the time of planting.

—H. W. Gilling, *Apiary Instructor.*

THE GARDEN.

VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

THE spring season, so far as seed-growing is concerned, may be said to begin with July in most places. Local conditions vary very considerably, and this must be allowed for; but in one respect all places are alike—the hours of daylight are beginning to lengthen at that period. Peas may be sown everywhere; for a start two kinds should be sown at the same time—an early kind for first use, and a second early to succeed them. After the first sowing one kind only should be sown at intervals of a fortnight, that being roughly the period of currency of each crop. Early potatoes may be planted in frost-free places.

Onions should be sown as early as possible, but not until a good seed-bed can be secured. The time when sowing is safe varies very considerably; those who can sow early in July have the best hope for a good crop. Varieties of keeping-types—Brown Spanish, Brown Globe, &c.—are the most valuable for spring sowing. Where early bulbs are desired sow White Queen. This variety will make good bulbs by the end of the year, but they are not good keepers, so only sufficient for summer and autumn use should be grown.

Carrots, lettuce, radish, parsley, cabbage, and cauliflower may be sown. Turnips should be left till August; if sown too early they bolt to seed without