

Lettuces should from now on be sown thinly in lines, the surplus seedlings being pulled out and plants for the crop left standing. Seeds for the main crop of leeks should be sown during the last half of September. Sow in lines and transplant when 8 in. or 9 in. high. In the colder districts winter crops of parsnips, carrots, and red beet should be sown in October, in middle districts during the first week in November, and two or three weeks later in the warmer parts. Turnips should be sown in small lots during the summer season, sowing a fresh lot about every seven weeks.

Increasing supplies of winter rhubarb on the market during the past winter show that the culture of this variety is extending. There is no doubt it can be made a profitable crop in all but the coldest districts. New beds may be formed by sowing seeds about the month of October, or by divisions of old stools. It is advisable to divide the old stools when they get too large, as the sticks are otherwise liable to come too small. A good time to lift the old stools is when the first crop of the summer variety comes into use. The stools should be cut up into pieces carrying one or two good crowns. All large leaves should be cut off, leaving only newly sprouting young leafstalks. Transplanting should be done at once on fresh ground previously prepared.

Success with onions largely depends on the attention given in the early stages. Timely thinning and thorough cultivation are important factors. A dressing of nitrate of soda, allowing about  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. per square yard (approximately 2 cwt. per acre), will have a marked effect on growth. The nitrate can be easily applied if mixed with dry wood-ashes.

#### Tomatoes.

In the warmest districts planting-out will have been already done, but in most places planting is not done till the end of October or early in November. The soil should be prepared a few weeks before planting. Where green crops are to be ploughed in, the green matter should be allowed time to get through the first stages of decay before planting is done. It is now a well-ascertained fact that the black-stripe disease, which has caused many losses, is mainly due to the excessive use of nitrogenous manures and fertilizers, including stable dung. The use of stable dung should be avoided. Suitable fertilizers are superphosphate, sulphate of potash, and sulphate of ammonia, allowing 3 oz. of the former and  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. of each of the others for each plant.

#### SMALL-FRUITS.

Raspberries: The disease known as raspberry anthracnose (*Gloeosporium venetum*) is fairly prevalent, and has caused the loss of crops. Correspondents have informed us that they have saved their crops by applying the remedies advised, where previously the crops were a total loss. The remedy is to spray with 4-4-40 bordeaux mixture when the young leaves begin to unfold, and again about a week before the blossoms begin to open. When the crop has been gathered the old canes should be cut out and the young canes sprayed as before. As an alternative spray lime-sulphur can be used, 1 in 10 for the first and 1 in 40 for subsequent applications. Bordeaux should have preference, as it has been proved to be effective. The disease first attacks the base of young canes, showing as purplish blotches on the canes. It gradually works its way up the cane. The blotches later assume a greyish colour, with a purple rim around them. It is in the second or fruit-bearing year that the damage is done. If the disease has been able to run its natural course it then attacks the fruit-bearing laterals and leaves thereon, and causes the fruit to shrivel up.

Gooseberries: If mildew is present, or the bushes are affected with leaf-spot, spray with 4-4-40 bordeaux as soon as the fruit is set.

—W. H. Taylor, Horticulturist.

*New Zealand Meat-producers Board.*—The electoral committee of the Board met at Wellington on 29th August. The three retiring producers' representatives—Messrs. J. C. N. Grigg, J. S. Jessep, and W. Perry—re-offered their services, and were unanimously elected. The committee also adopted the annual report and balance-sheet of the Board.