

The phase of rotation cropping being considered at present refers to vacant areas of land in market gardens at the present season and their treatment. Heavy dressings of organic manures and green crops are usually succeeded by such strong-feeding permanent crops as rhubarb and asparagus, or quicker-maturing but still gross-feeding crops as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, leeks, celery, and lettuce. Crops the marketable portion of which are the roots do best in a soil in which this rankness has passed off, and so usually succeed the class just mentioned. Such plants as produce fruit or seed for marketing, if grown too rankly and vigorously, defeat the end in view, as experience has proved that such a type usually flowers but sparsely, and even these flowers are unlikely to set.

These statements are generalizations, and much depends on the class of soil and the rainfall of a district. The principles stand, however, and in a good rotation is to be found the most economical way of solving the expensive problems of manuring and disease and pest control.

#### MANAGEMENT OF TREES AND SHRUBS FROM THE NURSERY.

Where planting of this kind has to be done to any extent it is desirable to give the order the most careful consideration, and now select and order the plants required. The supply is frequently limited—in some directions, at any rate—and if the order is postponed there is a danger of having to accept substituted varieties or indifferent quality. Much better is it, considering the permanent nature of these improvements, to order early and get just what is required.

In most instances it is also desirable to take delivery as soon as the plants are available, which will probably be about the month of May, when, if the plants are growing in boxes, they should be placed together in a handy position where they can be watered when necessary and not allowed to dry out. If the plants are in bundles and have been closely packed for some time they should be opened up in a well-ventilated shed, and allowed to air and harden for twenty-four hours or so before being taken out and heeled in. This last operation is done by opening out a trench in a piece of spare ground in friable condition, and of sufficient length and size to hold the roots. Place the plants in the trench close together but not too thickly; cover the roots well with soil, and tread it rather firm. In this way the plants will keep well—all winter, if necessary—until one is ready to put them out into a permanent position.

#### VEGETABLE CROPS.

The winter crops of cabbage, cauliflower, celery, &c., will soon be ready for cutting. The blanching of the main celery crop should now be completed. The top growth of the asparagus crop will require to be cut down and burnt as soon as it ripens.

During the coming month, on a piece of warm, well drained and prepared land, plant out from seed-beds sown in February the early cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce plants for spring cutting; and towards the end of the month sow further beds of these plants for putting out in the spring. These should be main-crop varieties for cutting in early summer. For this purpose the beds are better raised and sown thinly.

—*W. C. Hyde, Horticulturist.*