

more and more difficult to transplant seedlings. It is not always practicable to water or flood the area, but satisfactory results can be achieved by making a hole with the trowel, filling it with water (using a pint at least per hole), and setting the seedlings rather deeper than they grew in the seed-bed in a slight depression in the ground.

Plants 3 or 4 inches high, and those which appear to be on the small side but are well rooted and hardened off, are the best to plant. If conditions appear too dry it is better not to delay planting until rain comes, as the seedlings are growing and, when larger, will transplant with greater difficulty even though conditions may temporarily appear favourable.

### Moulding of Crops

**T**HE moulding of crops is quite an important operation, and has marked benefits to crops during the dry season. Firstly, it covers the roots with a greater depth of soil, so that the soil about the roots is not subjected to the same amount of drying, as otherwise would be the case.

Secondly, it destroys weeds between the rows and buries those actually in the rows which are otherwise difficult to hoe.

Thirdly, by drawing several inches of soil round the plants, additional support is given to the stems, so that the plants do not lodge so readily.

### Small Fruits

#### Raspberries and Loganberries

**A**S the picking season passes, wood on raspberries and loganberries from which fruit has been picked should be cut out entirely and burnt. There will be plenty of young growth coming on, and it will benefit both by receiving the whole of the nutriment coming from the roots and by the increased amount of light.

Keep the ground around the plants cultivated.

In districts where the buds are liable to be destroyed by the larvae of the raspberry bud moth later in the season the growth left after pruning should be sprayed with arsenate of lead (1½ lb. per 100 gallons of water), and the spraying repeated at three to four-week intervals.

## What to Do in the Vegetable Garden This Month

### Summary of operations for the month (until the middle of January).

#### SEEDS TO SOW.

Turnip, globe beet, carrots, lettuce, beans and peas.

#### SEEDLINGS TO TRANSPLANT.

Savoy cabbage, kale, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, leeks and celery.

#### PERENNIAL CROPS.

Keep runner beans well watered and give dressings of blood and bone or liquid manure. Cut back vines that have borne beans to encourage new growth.

#### SPECIAL NOTES FOR WARM DISTRICTS.

Plant out seedlings of tomatoes for a late crop ripening about Easter. Sow a late crop of runner beans for late picking.

#### SPECIAL NOTES FOR COLD DISTRICTS.

Spring cabbages are sown towards the end of the month (in other districts during February).

#### GENERAL WORK.

Tie up tomatoes and remove side shoots.

Use the hoe frequently to destroy weeds and to conserve moisture.

Apply liquid manure to salad crops.

Thin out seedling crops that have not been thinned previously.

Water as required.

Spray to prevent disease, and use derris dust to check white butterfly.

Earth up potatoes and other crops.

By this time most of the planting should be completed and the vegetable garden well filled with crops at all stages of maturity. The main work of the month is the tending of crops already planted.

### Currants

**W**ITH black currants, the wood from which the fruit has been picked should be cut back to strong side shoots or cut out entirely, leaving only the young wood which will be next season's fruiting wood.

to be recommended, and should be avoided for at least three to four years.

As the ground will be occupied for a number of years, special attention should be paid to its preparation. It should be ploughed or dug deeply and then sown down to a cover crop.

### Gooseberries

**I**F the gooseberry bushes were not thinned out during the picking season and judicious summer pruning is practised they should be treated now. This will permit of an increased amount of light to the plant which will assist the development of the buds which are to form next season's crop.

### The Flower Garden

**D**URING the summer months there is not much that can be done in the way of planting to furnish the flower beds. The chief work of the month is to care for those plants that have already been planted. If alterations or extensions are planned, proceed with the work if the soil is not too baked to do so.

The best time to sow lawn seed is March. The ground should be thoroughly prepared and levelled before that time, so that it has time to consolidate and so that weeds can be destroyed as they appear.

### Land for New Planting

**L**AND on which new plantations are to be made should be selected as soon as possible and prepared in readiness for later planting. To grow the same crop on the same land is not

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