HOW TO GROW CABBAGE

Advice on the Culture of This Favorite Vegetable.

Early and Late Varieties Require Different Treatment—Good Counsel as to Storing the Crop—Growing Cauliflower.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Early cabbage seed is generally started from the 1st to the 15th of March in a hotbed or house window. When the second set of leaves is showing, the seedlings are transplanted into flats in rows two inches apart each way, or into the small dirt band. This will give good, sturdy plants ready for the cold frame the last week in April. If these plants are then properly hardened off, they should be ready to transplant into the field by the 8th to 10th of May. The soil for early cabbage should be a warm, sandy loam in a good state of cultivation. The plants are generally set 30 inches between the rows and 18 inches in the row. They are given careful cultivation during the growing season.

The late crop is generally started about the 15th of May in an open seed-bed or cold frame. The rows in the seed-bed are 4-6 inches apart, the seed being scattered quite thickly in the row. Where the cabbage maggot is troublesome it will be necessary to grow the plants under cheesecloth frames. These plants should be ready to set in the field from June 15th to July 1st. When we are setting plants which have little soil on their roots, as often happens in the late crop, we carry the plants to be set out in a pail which is partly filled with a batter made of cow manure, loam and water. This gives some moisture to the plant and a certain amount of readily available food. The plants are set 24 inches in the row and 30 inches between the row. As this crop does best under cool conditions, it should, if possible, be put in the moister part of the garden. Both crops must have sufficient moisture if they are to grow quickly. Nitrate of soda may be used to advantage around the plants at the rate of 150-200 pounds per acre, or what could be put on a ten-cent piece to each plant. On account of the solubility of nitrate of soda in water, better results are obtained by making two applications of 75-100 pounds, first when the plants are beginning to grow after transplanting, and, secondly, when the head is beginning to form.

Cabbages are generally cut off so as to leave 3 or 4 of the outer leaves to protect the head. This should be done before too severe freezing weather injures the cabbage. They will not keep so well if they have been severely frozen.

Late cabbage may be stored in cellars, pits, or any like place. The temperature should be held at about 34 deg. F. and provision made for air circulation so that no moisture collect on walls or ceilings. Where one is storing in cellars, the cabbages are best placed on slatted shelves made one above the other about 2 feet apart. The cabbage may be laid on these, one or two layers deep. Where there is no good cellar storage, a pit may be made outside in a place which is well drained. The ground is covered with a layer of straw and the cabbage placed on this face down in layers of first five cabbages side by side, four on top of this, then three, then two, and finally one, thus forming an "A" shape. Tuck in the outer leaves of the first layer under the heads. The outer leaves of each layer are allowed to hang over the layer below to form a roof. The pile is then covered with six inches of straw and about six inches of soil. Every 10 or 15 feet a tile should be placed in the pile to come up through the soil and straw, thus forming a ventilator. All plants give off moisture, and unless we had an opening for it to escape the cabbage would soon begin to rot. If severe weather comes, these can be stuffed with straw and opened again when the weather moderates. The covering of the pit should also be increased by using strawy manure as the weather becomes more severe. Cabbage can be taken from the pit on warm days. Cabbages which are not quite fully grown may be dug with the roots attached. These can then make a certain amount of growth.

Cauliflower is handled in the same way as cabbage. If cauliflower gets a severe setback in transplanting to the field, it will tend to cause it to go to seed instead of to form a good head. More especially is this so with the early crop in the warm summer weather. In many small gardens it is generally grown as a fall crop. The plants are slower growers than cabbage and will do better if started about two weeks earlier if we wish a maximum number of good heads. When the cauliflower shows a head about two inches in diameter the outer leaves should be drawn together and tied so as to exclude the light, thus giving a pure white head. Cauliflowers that have not fully developed may be dug up, roots and all, and hung in a cool cellar. There they will continue to grow, giving a delicious head after the ordinary season of cauliflower is over. Fully developed heads may be cut off, wrapped in oil paper and stored in a cold room at 32 deg. F. to 34 deg. F. Here they will keep well till Christmas time.—A. H. MacLennan, Vegetable Specialist, Toronto.

The trees in the apple orchard may be scraped down so as to make more effective the later spraying of the trunk and main branches. Egg masses of the Tussock Moth, conspicuously white against the dark bark, may be removed by means of a wire brush or hook on a pole.

Long-tailed lambs are unsightly, and are apt to become very filthy.

Horrors of Ireland

OPINIONS concerning Ireland are to be had without trouble, and there has been no lack of despatches concerning assassinations, raids and reprisals. Pictures of just what the country looks like are not so common, and on that account we read with interest Maude Radford Warren, who writes in Colliers on "What They Are Saying in Ireland." We do not regard what they are saying in Ireland or what they are saying about Ireland as of the utmost importance, for people have been talking in and about Ireland for more than a century, and we cannot see that she has derived any benefit therefrom. But what Mrs. Warren saw in Ireland was a picture of horror quite equal to anything she saw in France and Belgium while the war was going on. She does not attempt to allocate the blame for conditions. She gives pictures of Sinn Fein murders and Black and Tan reprisals, equally shocking, for when a rifle shot robs a little child of its father and makes a broken-hearted widow what does it matter whether the little child had a Sinn Feiner or a policeman for protector? In Ireland it is the women and children who suffer the most.

The writer was in Ireland when it was in a state of tranquility and knew it well in happier days. She was acquainted with a little family named Malone in a village near the Irish Sea. Terence Malone was a constable, and the father of three little sons. His wife was not very strong, but as she said her husband was a saving kind of man she had little doubt that they would be able to put by the money so that the eldest could become a priest and the second a doctor. She had not decided on a career for the baby when her husband was shot down a short distance from his own door by some unknown Sinn Feiner. For months, as he had said, he never knew when he left the house to take his beat whether he would ever see his family again. He did not fear that any of the villagers would murder him, for there was hardly one for whom he had not done a good turn, but he feared some stranger might kill him on sight because of his uniform. So it happened, and the murderer escaped.

In the west of Ireland she knew another family named Quinn, thrifty farmers. One day Eileen Quinn was sitting by her door with a baby in her arms waiting for Malachy to come home when there suddenly appeared two military lorries, from which soldiers were firing, apparently at random. One shot struck Mrs. Quinn and killed her. The priest sent for the head constable and asked him to take the woman's deposition before she breathed her last. He refused. At any rate, it would have been impossible, in the opinion of the woman who told Mrs. Warren the story, to have secured a verdict against the man who fired the shot even if he could have been identified. The court decides in such circumstances that the bullet was fired as a precautionary measure, she says. Only the Sunday before the village priest had preached a sermon praising the local boys for not having joined in any of the attacks on policemen, and that night the police went down and thanked him.

Village after village is to be seen with houses gutted, and the unfortunate owners huddled by the half-dozen in the room of a more fortunate neighbor. Some of them in the districts which are most troubled dare not sleep in their houses at night, but lie under the hedges, where they think there is less danger of stopping a flying bullet. At dead of night flames redden the distant sky and the peope wonder, "Is it the Feiners burning the police barracks, or is it the Black and Tans burning the creamery?" If it is the former to-night it is likely to be the other to-morrow night, with the result that scores will be thrown out of employment, and more lives will be taken on one side to balance the losses of the other.

To find a neutral is difficult, and when one is found he will speak only in whispers. When you find a Sinn Feiner he will be eloquent over the horrible deeds of the Black and Tans, but will never mention the fact that the soldiers were ambushed in the place a few days before. The Black and Tans, similarly, will pass lightly over their reprisals, and will only show interest in the deeds which provoked them. Spies are everywhere, spies for the military and spies for the rebels. The former, it is said, point out the homes of known Sinn Feiners when reprisals are on foot, and the latter point out the military spies and have them shot in their beds. The Irish Celt is not as a rule a calculating person, and that is why he lunges lightly into civil war without a thought of the consequences to himself or to the wives and children. That he has any hope of eventually liberating Ireland from the well-known British yoke by his campaign of murder is to be doubted. It is upon his ignorance of any matters outside his own parish, his hatred of authority and his love of excitement that his leaders trade.

Industrious Fisherfolk.

Bretons are the most brave, hardy, and competent fisherfolk in the world. In the proper season, for instance, 6,000 men are engaged in cod fishing and 25,000 to 30,000 in sardine fishing. In addition, much trade is done in oysters, shrimps, tunny, mackerel, and lobsters, while in some years as much as $1,000,000 worth of seaweed has been collected, taken inland, and either spread on the land as a fertilizer, or dried and burnt to produce soda and iodine.

The Crusade for Good Health

The Canadian Red Cross Society is one of thirty-one National Red Cross Societies engaged in a world-wide Crusade for

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Work For "Drys" Then Ask "Pers"

Woodstock, April 22.—At the annual meeting of the Oxford County Medical Association a resolution was introduced that in future "pers." for liquor be issued only to patients ill in bed. The resolution was defeated.

In the discussion on the resolution a number of the members took occasion to severely condemn those temperance people who go out on election day and work hard for prohibition and then come around to the doctors in an effort to secure prescriptions for liquor and practically ask the doctor to break the law.

Our Empire Prince

Seven years ago the Prince of Wales was a subaltern, now he is a colonel with a string of hard-earned war ribbons. He has made strides towards approaching the record of his father, who is easily the most traveled of the sovereigns in this or any other period; he has become a finished public speaker, and has changed from a shy youth into a young man with an intimate knowledge of everyday affairs, immensely popular wherever he goes.—London Daily Chronicle.

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