

LIFE IN THE GARDEN

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR AMATEURS

Next Week's Work

By VERONICA.

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

VEGETABLE—

Peas—Daisy, Stanley
Onions
Beet—Globe or Turnip-rooted
Turnip—White Stone
Carrot—Early Horn
Radish—Long Scarlet
Parsnip—Hollow Crown
Tomato, in frames
Vegetable Marrows, in frames
Mustard and Cress for salads

FLOWER—

Sweet Peas
Candytuft
Mignonette
Clarkia Pulchella
Godetia
Petunia, in frames
Stocks and Asters, in frames
Antirrhinums, in frames
Carnations, in frames
Salpiglossa, in frames

PLANTING.

Planting of hedges, fruit trees, roses and shrubs should be pushed on with. Continue planting a few early potatoes. Rhubarb, if not already in, should be planted at once. Continue transplanting cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce, also onions. Tree onions and shallots should be got in if not already planted

POTATO CULTURE.



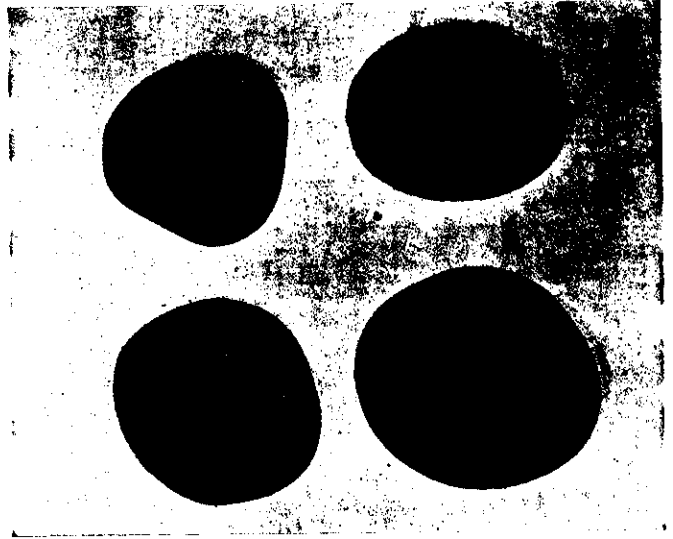
THE growing of potatoes during the past three seasons has, owing to the blight, been a very trying experience. It remains to be

seen whether this unwelcome visitant will, during the coming season, be as prevalent as before. There appears to be some hope that in the years to come this enemy of the potato will disappear, a hope which we are certain our readers, as well as every grower of the noble tuber, wish speedily to be realised. Be this as it may, we cannot afford to run the risk of losing our crop through neglecting preventive measures in the shape of spraying. No doubt many consider the spraying business a bother, and so it is; but it is, at the same time, our only hope of securing a crop, and if we

don't intend to spray, it is better not to plant. There are some people, even at this late date, who question if spraying does any good; they will tell you they sprayed, and it was "no good." Now, spraying to be effectual must be done in time. It is not of much use after the blight has got a good hold, for, be it clearly understood, spraying does not kill the fungoid growth, but it prevents it spreading, and where the spray rests on the leaves the blight cannot thrive. Spraying, therefore, to be effectual must be thorough; both sides of the row and under the leaves should be got at. Usually we find three sprayings sufficient, but when rain falls within 12 hours after the operation, it should be repeated, as rain washes off the spray. The copper, and especially the lime, should be fresh, and be used immediately it is mixed; it is no use leaving it—as we have frequently seen done—overnight. We recommend the Bordeaux mixture for first spraying to be the 4.4.40 strength. In two to three weeks' time the 6.6.40 should be used, and for the last 8.8.40 will be found most effectual. Treacle dissolved and used at the rate of 1 pound to 20 gallons will make the mixture more adhesive. A small quantity of Paris Green is sometimes added, which keeps fly and other insects in check. When only small quan-

ties of spray are required, or where fresh lime is not available, the ready-mixed powder Vermorite can be purchased; it is put up in packets, and simply requires water to be added to be ready for use. It is an economical and efficient spray, and can be obtained through seedsmen or storekeepers.

before planting is recommended, care being taken not to break the buds when planting out. Potatoes with thin or stringy eyes it is not advisable to plant. When the potatoes show above ground, cultivation should begin, stirring the ground frequently with a hoe; as they advance in growth they should be kept

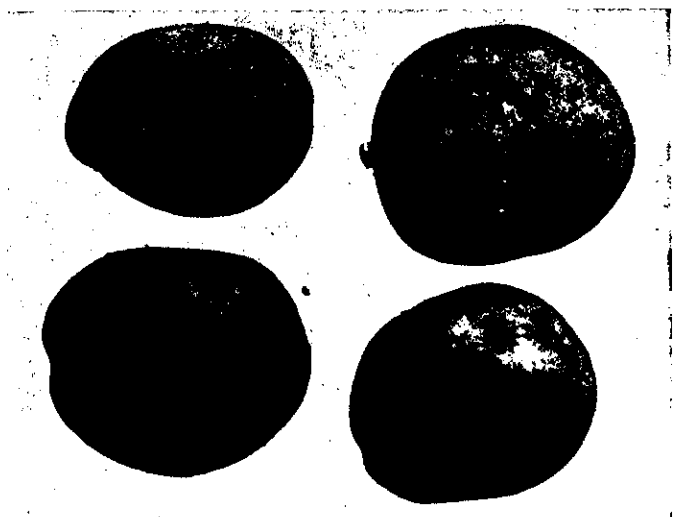


Up-to-Date.

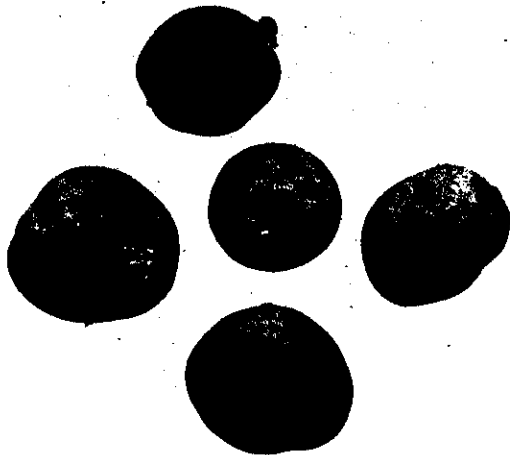
It is generally admitted potatoes do best on a good sandy loam, but they can be grown with varying success on soils of all kinds, and in all conditions of fertility. An abundant use of fertilizers is most profitable. Old grass land well broken up is an excellent soil in which to plant. The manure should be spread in the furrows or rows, and the

free from weeds and earthed up on both sides. The rows in which potatoes are planted should be 2 1/2 feet wide, and the sets 15 to 18 inches apart. A change of seed yearly or every second year is recommended.

Doubtless our readers will be trying to make up their minds what kind of potatoes to plant. Owing to the blight,



Eldorado.



Eureka.

This picture of Eureka is from seed specimens only.

seed planted at least four inches deep. Many growers differ as to planting whole or cut seed or "sets." We have seen splendid crops from both, and the only thing to guard against is too early planting with cut sets, as they are then very apt to rot in the soil. For early planting we strongly advise using whole seed about the size of a hen egg. To secure very early potatoes, sprouting in boxes

some of our really good old favourites have almost disappeared. It is now difficult to procure such fine-flavoured sorts as the old a-blaf kidney, Lapstone, Early Nurture, Early Puritan, etc., and the loss of these really good kinds is to be regretted, as those taking their places are not, as a rule, equal in quality. If one takes up a potato catalogue to make a selection, and reads the long de-