

to pinch off flower-stems or the large leaves on the main stems. Watering the plants to encourage growth should not be resorted to unless necessary. In many districts the plants usually grow all too strong without watering.

Cabbage-plants may be put out unless sufficient were planted previously. If that has been done it is not wise to plant now for succession, a procedure quite unnecessary, as previously explained.

Cauliflower-plants, from seed sown in September, should now be of some size. These should receive proper attention, for if they survive the so-called fly they come into use at Easter, a period when they are specially valuable, for at that time both peas and French beans are all but past, while broccoli is not yet in use. Cauliflowers are touchy subjects in summer; any check is liable to cause them to prematurely button, when they are of course quite useless. The young plants should be pricked off into beds of light rich soil, with sufficient room to grow without crowding until they are large enough to plant out. By this means they are kept growing without danger of starving each other, as they are liable to do in the seed-bed, and the fine stock of roots they have when put out finally enable them to go ahead with scarcely any check.

The summer supply of vegetables is not usually a matter of difficulty. Provided the soil is good enough, and there is sufficient moisture, it is easily provided for. Peas and beans usually come all right, and the fly does not do much harm till towards the end of summer, when it will have had time to raise a few more generations, so that cabbages are generally safe till then. For the winter supply, however, things are not so easy. Root crops fortunately, are reliable—parsnips, carrots, and artichokes; while the gourd family—marrows and pumpkins—are always safe. But the green crops and turnips are quite problematical. The fly having been very bad last season, is almost sure to be worse still this season if the weather should prove to be dry. As a small crop in a private garden it is possible to save cabbages, &c., from the fly if—and the “if” is very important—there is water available to keep the plants growing. No amount of spraying will avail unless you can keep the plants growing. This shows the wisdom of not relying entirely on the Brassica family to supply green vegetables. Both spinach and silver-beet are immune from the fly, and they never fail. Silver-beet affords two distinct dishes—the green matter stripped from the midrib, as it always should be, and the midribs; these, when stewed and served with thickened sauce, make an excellent dish. The beet may be sown now if desired; it will continue to produce all summer and winter. Or, if more convenient, the seed may be kept till January: there is then time to get it fit for winter use.

Spinach sown during summer is a very short-lived crop. It bolts to seed very quickly. Therefore, if wanted in summer, sow little and often. For winter use the seed should be sown in the third week of February. It