

the same as for seakale in every respect; but, as with seakale-forcing, English directions will be misleading to a novice. You are advised to lift the crowns some time before forcing, as it causes them to force better. It should be understood that the lifting is only a part of the English system, where the forcing is done in hothouses. The crowns are taken from the open ground, the roots very much reduced, and the crowns packed close together in a variety of ways, and, after forcing, the crowns are thrown away. When the forcing is done in the open ground there is no need for lifting. The crowns are covered where they grow, the same as seakale.

*Peas.*—There are so many variations of soil and climate in the Dominion that it is not possible to state a time for sowing that will be right for all. General principles are, however, unalterable, and where conditions of soil render it safe to stray far from them it may be safely assumed that the conditions are very far from normal. I know of a place where peas are sown early in May and are gathered early in October. This place will grow absolutely nothing in summer, because it is too dry. In ordinary circumstances many people sow towards the end of May, in the early twenties. The usual result is that peas are gathered about the 28th October, but I have never seen them give a crop—indeed, scarcely half a crop—and in windy situations they are frequently nearly all destroyed, because growth is too slow during June. In similar places, if a first sowing is made on the 1st July, the first gathering should be made on the 9th November, but this will be a full crop, as the plants had growing weather all the time. I gave up the May sowings years ago, and this after a fair trial, as not being worth while. In the garden I am now working I am seldom able to sow before August. As a rule, the soil is too wet before that, but a month later in sowing makes a difference of only about two weeks in gathering. Local conditions have so much effect that to some extent each grower must judge for himself when it is best to sow.

The question of variety, however, is on a quite different footing. Varieties are classed as first early, second early, main crop, and late. First earlies are usually of a very dwarf character; their merit is that they mature a crop quickly, but, please note, they are not quicker in growth than later varieties, but, being more precocious, they sooner bear seed. This, however, is at the expense of growth, and the crop is very small, therefore quickly over. For that reason I regard a true first early as the most expensive of all to grow, because there is less return. They give us the earliest peas, and we pay the price. The true first earlies are represented by Little Gem, American Wonder, Richard Seddon, and others. It would be wrong to grow these except as the first crop; they are meant for that only. The second earlies have many representatives. I will take two—Carter's Springtide and