

very strong and the heads correspondingly large. Blanched heads are secured by moulding up the rows in the two last-mentioned beds.

Beds may be established either by sowing seeds in a nurse-bed the year before planting, to secure the necessary plants; by purchasing plants to save a year; or by sowing seed where the plants are to grow. The latter method would involve some extra labour in tending the young plants during the first season, but would be more expeditious than raising plants to be transplanted, as the transplanting checks the plants to some extent. Lacking plants, the wisest plan would be to purchase them.

Planting should be done in spring just as the plants are beginning to grow. It is dangerous to plant before the roots are active; there is naturally some damage to the roots in lifting, and if the plants remain dormant long after planting the damaged roots are likely to die back.

To plant, throw out a trench with a long-handled shovel. The trench should be about 6 in. deep. Along the bottom of the trench rake up a little ridge 3 in. high. Set the plants on the ridge as on a saddle, with the roots outspread on each side; then throw in the soil. This method is for beds treated in either way described. When planting be sure to press the soil down very firmly on the roots before completely covering them with the soil. The crowns should be covered to a depth of about 3 in. If long blanched heads are required the rows should be 4 ft. apart, as blanching is done by throwing a ridge of soil from the intervals over the rows of plants. The ridges are broken down in winter before pruning is done, and thrown up again before growth begins in spring. Though planting will not be done for some months, it is important that the soil be prepared well in advance, so that it may settle down and be in good working-order for planting.

Stable manure is the most valuable fertilizer or plant-food, and should be used as freely as possible. Bonedust is a valuable and lasting fertilizer; apply 2 lb. per rod at the same time as stable manure is applied—that is, when preparing the soil for new beds or immediately after cutting down an established bed. After growth has well started give a dressing of common salt—2 lb. per rod—or the same quantity of sulphate of ammonia, or 1 lb. of nitrate of soda. The same may be repeated some weeks later during showery weather.

No heads should be cut till the third year from planting. Cutting heads from an established bed continues for about ten weeks. After that everything that grows should be left to mature, as the next crop will be in proportion to the amount of growth so matured.