

attended to, there should be no trouble with red mites or plant-lice, and proper ventilation will usually prevent attacks of rust. When placed outside, the boxes of plants should not be in a windy situation, which would tend to dry the soil too quickly, and they must be kept well supplied with water. The plants will stand several months in the boxes, and will strengthen if well attended to. The plants should be put out in the trenches early in February, and when planted should be thoroughly watered. In cooler places there is comparatively little trouble, and planting can be done at any time as the plants become ready; but the last lot should be out early in January, the plants being from the September sowing. Later-sown plants may fill a gap, but do not develop large-sized heads.

Insect Pests.

A number of specimens of celery received show that in some parts there is trouble with "celery-rust" and small green lice. Celery-rust may be recognized by small rust-coloured spots on the leaves. As soon as it is detected the affected leaves should be cut off and destroyed, and the plants at once sprayed with bordeaux, 2-2-40 strength, or its equivalent of a proprietary mixture. The means of control are preventive; a bad attack cannot be cured. Plant-lice and aphides can be readily destroyed by spraying with Vistolene or X.L. All fluid.

Young carrots and parsnips, particularly carrots, are liable in warm climates to be attacked by plant-lice. They may not be detected for a time, being very small, but before long the plants look yellowish and the foliage droops. Treat as advised for celery, and the plants soon resume a normal appearance and growth.

During dry summers the larvæ of the diamond-backed moth, commonly known as "cabbage-fly," make the cultivation of cabbages and all the brassica family very difficult. The caterpillars eat the leaves of the plants, and as growth is poor owing to dryness of soil the plants are unable to make headway. The moth is always present, but in wet seasons it does not propagate in great numbers, and as plants grow well in a wet summer they are able to outgrow the damage done by the caterpillars. It is evident that remedial measures must be in the direction of making the plants grow. The caterpillars can be destroyed by spraying with arsenate of lead, but it is quite useless to kill the insects unless the plants can be made to grow, and spraying with arsenate of lead does some injury to the plants. Where water is abundant there is no reason for failing to grow the crops. Tar-water as a deterrent has long proved effectual, but its application must be before the moths appear. The smell of tar is obnoxious to the moths, and they will not alight to lay their eggs on plants treated with it. Quassia-water is used in England in the same way—it is said, with good results. Now we have Vaporite, that promises to be a great boon, as it kills insects in the soil or that inhale its vapour. The most vital parts of the plants are the young leaves just unfolding in the centre. A little hellebore powder dusted occasionally into these hearts will save the plants by killing the caterpillars. Nitrate of soda plays an important part in fighting these pests because of the magical effect it has on growth, and during a dry season it is especially beneficial. When the plants appear to require a filip give a dressing of the nitrate; 1 oz. to the square yard is not too much in a dry season. Apply twice with an interval of three or four weeks between.