

plant-growth should be checked for the benefit of the main crop, which is the only one that will ripen.

Insect Pests.

The larvæ of the diamond-backed moth, which is the greatest pest of the cabbage tribe, is unlikely to be present in devastating numbers this season, wet weather and cool conditions so far having restricted—in some districts quite prevented—hatching and breeding. When the infection is not bad I have found hellebore powder the best thing to use, it being easily applied, requiring no preparation. The grubs do most damage by eating the tiny leaves forming in the centre of the plants, particularly cauliflowers and broccoli. A little of the powder dusted on these centre leaves will save them from injury; no notice need be taken of the larger leaves, but fertilizing with nitrate of soda to assist growth should not be neglected. In the warmer districts celery and also carrots and parsnips are liable to be infested by small green lice. If these are left in possession the foliage turns yellow and growth ceases; soon the foliage withers away and the plants die. Spraying with Vistolene or XL All fluid kills the insect at once. The spray should be fine or it will not cling to the foliage, and, further, a coarse spray is very wasteful. The grey aphid that attacks the cabbage tribe in dry weather can be controlled in the same way. Brussels sprouts are liable to become badly infested with these insects after the sprouts are formed. In this case I prefer to treat them with boiling water applied forcibly with a garden syringe, and I have had complete success with this plan. The aphid in this case has usually appeared towards the end of summer when days are shortening and becoming cooler but when the soil is very dry. I have then always found one syringing sufficient, as rain is usually not long coming, the plants get more moisture, and the lower temperature prevents a reappearance of the pest.

Fertilizers.

Fertilizers, with the exception of nitrate of soda, should preferably be applied before planting. Some authorities advise the general use of basic slag for vegetables; it has the advantage of being non-acid, therefore does not encourage club-root disease. Four ounces per square yard is a suitable amount of slag. It may not be wise, however, to rely on the continued use of only one fertilizer. Blood-and-bone is useful for most crops, so also is superphosphate. Where the soil has been kept in good heart by a proper use of fertilizers, by rotation of crops, and by turning in green crops for humus, large quantities of fertilizers are not required. In such circumstances superphosphate, 1 oz., and bone-meal or blood-and-bone, 1 oz., each per square yard, is sufficient. This equals about 2 lb. per square rod, or 300 lb. per acre of each, and 600 lb. per acre in all. Nitrate of soda is of great value in vegetable-culture. All crops are benefited by light applications of this salt, but what may be termed green crops, as distinguished from root crops, are most benefited. The dressing should be light; heavy dressings are likely to induce a too luxuriant soft growth. Two dressings each of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per square yard, equal to 150 lb. per acre, are better than one heavier dressing. The first dressing should be applied soon after the plants begin to grow after being transplanted, the second five or six weeks later.