

## THE GARDEN.

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### VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

DURING the last half of March in cold districts, and the first week in April in warm districts, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, and lettuce should be sown for spring supply.

In most places it will be sufficient to sow cauliflowers at the time stated to secure a supply from the end of October to the early part of January, an early and a late kind being sown. Experimental work carried out at the Arataki Horticultural Station, Havelock North, has shown that this sowing will not suffice in that locality, as they head in a shorter time than in colder places. Cauliflowers are represented by two distinct types. One type makes comparatively small heads that come quickly, the best known varieties being Early London, Early Paris, and Early Snowball. The other section comprises the large-headed varieties, of which Veitch's Autumn Giant and Early Erfurt are types, the term "early" being rather a misnomer in this case. The Arataki trials resulted as follows: Snowball, sown 1st April, planted 6th June, came into cut 24th September, last used 31st October; Early Erfurt, sown 1st April, planted 6th June, first cut 21st October, last cut 23rd November; Veitch's Autumn Giant gave practically the same results. Sowings were again made on 1st May. The trials with Snowball were a failure, the seeds supplied proving to be a broccoli. Early Erfurt came into cut on 30th November, and Veitch's Autumn Giant eleven days later.

These trials show that the warmer districts are able to produce cauliflowers earlier than is possible in other parts, and also that a sowing on 1st May is necessary if it is desired to carry on a supply into the New Year. This information should be valuable to both market-gardeners and growers for home use, as carrying out the practice will to a large extent do away with the necessity for growing broccoli. The latter occupies the ground for a much longer time, it being necessary to plant the mid-season varieties in January to get heads in September and October; whereas the same result can be obtained by planting cauliflowers in June, a very great saving of ground-space in favour of the warmer districts. It may, however, be as well to warn growers that the mere geographical position of a locality is not sufficient warrant for classing it as a warm place. There are many places in the North where the climate approximates so closely to South Island conditions as to render it necessary to observe the same routine of cultivation.

Trial sowings of turnips at Arataki show that the warm climate is a disadvantage with this vegetable. The Snowball variety sown on 1st March gave the first pulling on 23rd June, three months from sowing. Sown on 1st April the first were used on 11th August, four months from sowing. Sown on 1st May very few were obtained for use, and all bolted to flower the first week in September. It is evident that it is not serviceable to sow after the second week in March, and that better results are obtained in colder districts. However, if there is an actual shortage of turnips it may be well to sow up to the