

What To Do In The Garden Next Month

Summary of Operations during June

VEGETABLE SECTION.

SEEDLINGS TO TRANSPLANT AND PLANTS TO SET.

Seedling should not be planted out this month. Shallots may be planted, but better results can be obtained by planting in July. Plant early potatoes in frost-free districts if the condition of the soil is suitable.

PERENNIAL CROPS.

Rhubarb crowns are better planted in July or early August, and asparagus plants in August and September.

CROPS IN SEASON.

Greens.—Brussels sprouts (September); cauliflower, winter cabbage, savoy cabbage, borecole (early November); silver beet (October); spinach (February). Salads.—Endive (February, March); celery (September).
Roots in the ground.—Artichokes (September, tubers); beetroot and carrots (February-March, in warm districts); celeriac (September); leeks (October); parsnips (October and December); salsify (October); turnips (March, April); swedes (November in cooler localities, January in warmer).

CROPS IN STORE.

Beetroot, carrots, kumaras, onions, potatoes, pumpkins, shallots.

GENERAL WORK.

Dig light land, if its condition is suitable, in preparation for planting in warm districts.

Clean, repair and sharpen garden tools. Place order for seed and manure.

SMALL FRUITS SECTION.

Small fruits planted last month will be satisfactory, but it is advisable not to undertake further planting until July. Attend to the pruning of bushes.

FLOWER SECTION.

Order shrubs and seeds. The pruning of early-spring flowering shrubs should be delayed until after their blooming period is past. Others which bloom on new growths may be pruned now. With roses, in cold localities pruning should be delayed until the end of August. Pruning generally starts the bushes into new growth, and if done before the severity of the winter is past there is the liability of loss of the buds by frost injury. The planting of hardy deciduous shrubs and trees may be undertaken. Evergreens and tender shrubs and those deciduous subjects which do not transplant readily are better planted in August and September.

GLASSHOUSE SECTION.

Dig under the cover crop four to six weeks before a crop is to be planted. Flood the house two to three weeks before planting, and leave it undisturbed for the surplus water to drain away. Toward the end of the month plant out tomato seedlings in the heated house.

In order to protect the plants against attacks of blight, they should, after attaining a height of 7in. or 8in., be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture. Preservation of the crop depends on spraying at least every 10 days. In the event of the "tops" becoming seriously affected with blight, they should be cut off close to the ground and destroyed by burning. This is the only means of preventing the loss of the crop.

Crop Prospects

If the area of land available is 12ft. 6in x 10ft, and the tubers are planted as already advised, 10lb of seed averaging five to the pound will be sufficient. The area (that of a small bedroom) will allow for five rows 2ft. apart, setting 10 tubers to the row, and, if the crop is grown, as suggested, from Government-certified mother seed and proper cultural and spraying methods are adopted, it should easily produce 80 to 100lb. of edible potatoes.

And at what cost? Crop sprayed five times with Bordeaux mixture, using 2 gallons at each application:—

	s. d.
Bluestone	0 6
Hydrated lime	0 1
Mixed fertiliser	1 0
Seed—10lb. at 2d per lb.	1 8
Total	3 3

This computation is based on bulk buying.

Bordeaux Mixture

Bordeaux mixture is a combination of specified quantities of sulphate of copper and lime, preferably hydrated lime.

To make 5 gallons of the mixture, dissolve ½lb. of bluestone in half the required amount of water in a copper, wooden, enamel, or earthenware vessel. (A benzine tin which has been heavily coated with coal tar or pitch is also suitable.) This is best done by tying the bluestone in a piece of sacking and suspending it in the water.

The ½lb. of lime should be mixed with a small quantity of water and stirred until it is thoroughly mixed and in a creamy condition. More water should be added before mixing with the bluestone, which must be completely dissolved before the two are put together in the same container. The two concentrated solutions must never be mixed before dilution. The mixture should be a deep, sky-blue colour. A rough test for acidity may be made by holding in the solution a clean knife blade or a bright nail for a few minutes. If, on withdrawing either of these, a coating of copper appears, additional lime is required.

How to Apply It

Bordeaux mixture should be applied as soon after preparation as possible, but must not be sprayed on wet plants. Efficient spraying is achieved only when the whole plant is covered by the liquid used. It is important that the underside of the foliage should be covered in a similar manner to the upper side.

The sprayer must not be of tin or iron. If either of these is used the Bordeaux mixture will attack it, resulting in the sprayer being ruined and the mixture rendered useless. The accompanying illustration shows a



handy little sprayer made of brass and produced in New Zealand. A short piece of bent copper or brass tubing attached to the outlet will enable the underside of the foliage to be sprayed as easily as other parts of the plants.

— D. K. PRITCHARD, Instructor in Vegetable Culture, Wellington.