

down weeds, there should always be a tendency to draw the soil towards the plants.

Cucumbers

Cultivation of this vegetable, which should always be shallow, will serve the dual purpose of destroying weeds and creating a soil mulch. The location on which the "hills" are set should be flat; if not, the plants will be inclined to dry out quickly. Heavy watering is necessary; but the existence of bad drainage conditions will not be conducive to heavy cropping. Liquid manure, rather weak, applied at 7 to 10-day intervals will be beneficial to fruit-bearing plants. When 24 to 30 inches long, the tips of the vines should be "pinched" out. This will encourage the development of lateral growth and assist early fruiting.

Lettuce

For summer cultivation there are special varieties, among which may be mentioned Success and Neapolitan (Summer Market). Where lettuce are desired during the next few months, it is better to sow the seed in the rows where it is intended the plants should grow until harvesting. If desired, the seedlings removed when thinning can be used to make a separate bed. For successful lettuce production during

the summer season, heavy watering is necessary, followed at all times by applications of liquid manure and regular shallow hoeing.

Endive

This is a salad plant, principally grown in the autumn. In Great Britain and Europe it is produced in addition to lettuce, mainly in private gardens. The leaves of the young plants may be used for salads and can be cooked as a substitute for spinach. To appreciate endive at its best, the leaves of the fully-grown plant are tied together at the top so that the centre will become blanched. It then becomes white and very tender. Cultural practices for lettuce may be applied to endive. Seeds may be sown from February to April, and transplanted in rows 12 inches apart with an equal distance between the plants.

Swedes

If not already completed, seeds of this winter vegetable should be sown without further delay. In the home-garden, the seed may be sown in rows 12 to 15 inches apart. The plants should be thinned from 6 to 8 inches spacing between each plant in the row. As turnip tops are subjects of attention by white butterfly and diamond-backed moth, spraying with nico-

tine sulphate or arsenate of lead may be necessary. Derris, in either dust or spray form, can also be used for protection.

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

Answer to Correspondent

Timber Preservation

"SOFTWOOD" (MATAMATA)—

Would it be possible to make Lawsoniana posts more durable by soaking them in a bluestone solution, and, if so, what strength?

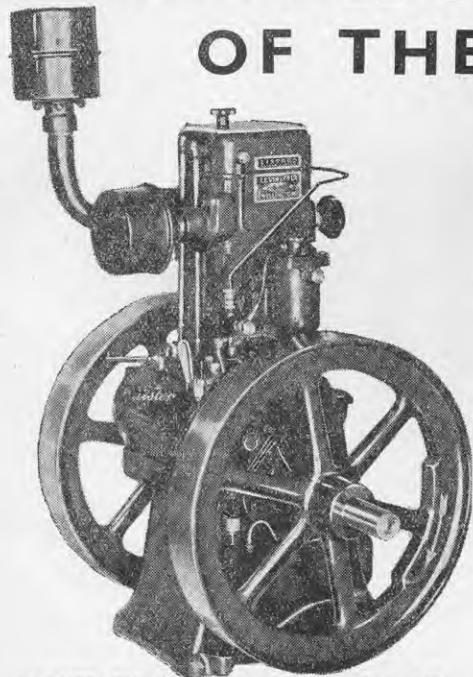
State Forest Service:—

"From 1841 impregnation of timber by a 1 per cent. solution of copper sulphate was used in France on a large scale, but has now given way to creosote.

"The solution has good penetration, but is fairly easily washed out. Its disadvantages are that it corrodes iron (only galvanised iron should be allowed to come in contact with any timber so treated), and is one of the weakest antiseptics in use for the preservation of timber.

"Impregnating with creosote is now the chief method in use."

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