

Guide for the Home Garden

Work for September

"There is land enough and seed enough,
There are tools enough and people
enough

To grow and preserve food enough—IF"

—A Victory Garden Slogan.

"If you will play your part in horticulture,
And dig your soil and then prepare to
sow,

If you would have an ideal Victory
Garden,

Then you must learn to cultivate and
hoe."

MR. CLAUDE R. VICKARD, U.S.A. Secretary for Agriculture, has said, "Food will win the war and write the peace." The real meaning of this statement is that the restoration of all belligerent countries to peace-time conditions will be simplified if food supplies are plentiful. The home vegetable garden, therefore, has its part to play, the importance of which cannot very well be over-estimated. "September for seed sowing" is a maxim worthy of adoption when laying plans for the coming season. There are few home-grown vegetables the seed of which cannot be sown during September, that is, providing proper care and discretion are exercised concerning the different varieties selected.

Sow Sparingly

It should be emphasised again that sowing more seed than is necessary for the production of the number of plants required is not only a waste of seed, but often results in weak, spindly plants, due to overcrowding in the seed-bed. Seed should be sown sparingly, and, during September, shallow soil coverage will suffice, if precautions are taken to prevent undue evaporation of moisture from the surface soil. An important point which should be observed is that when a seedling box is used for seed germination it is advisable to keep it covered, preferably with a sheet of light-coloured paper—newspaper will be suitable—until germination starts, after which instant removal is necessary.

Cabbage: Summer cabbage plants which may not yet be set out should be planted without further delay. If home-grown plants are not ready, it may be more profitable to buy what is required, rather than miss the opportunity of securing the early growth of plants of this variety (Golden Acre). These will follow closely on

after Flower of Spring, and, as will be advised later, can largely be made an addition to a winter savoy planting. Harvesting the spring cabbage mentioned above should now be going on. If, by the middle of September, the bed has not been properly thinned out by cutting, those remaining are not likely to develop into full-hearted specimens. It would therefore be more profitable to make plenty of room for development, even at the risk of losing a few which may be only partly hearted.

Celery: September is considered the earliest month for sowing celery seed

Don'ts

DON'T neglect "banking up" soil on the early potato crop. Exposure of tubers affords a favourable opportunity for the depredations of the potato tuber-moth.

DON'T dig in a non-leguminous green-manure crop immediately before setting plants in the soil on top of it, unless sulphate of ammonia, 1oz. per square yard, is broadcast over the area before digging is begun. Lupins, or other legumes, can be dug in any time—better not too mature.

DON'T overlook laying the foundation of the next compost heap. All that can be properly made on the garden will be required.

DON'T always blame poor germination on the quality of seed supplied by the seedsman. Try to improve the practices which have previously been adopted.

in the open. Golden Self-Blanching, as an early variety, is quite suitable, and in order to ensure sufficient plants to meet requirements allowance should be made for germination failure or weakness. Although there are between 80,000 and 90,000 celery seeds in 1 oz., the average germination rarely exceeds 65 per cent. Part of this failure may be due to the length of time the seeds take to germinate—2½ to 3 weeks. The soil in which celery seed is sown should be of very fine tilth, and it is an advantage to have it passed through a fine sieve. A shallow box is best, and when the seedlings are 1½ to 2 in. high they should be pricked out, either into larger and deeper boxes or in a shel-

tered part of the garden, allowing 2 in. each way between the plants.

Asparagus: The area occupied by the roots should be kept conspicuously free of weeds, and as soon as the first spears begin to show nitrate of soda, 1 oz. per sq. yard, may, with advantage, be broadcast over the bed. Plenty of good freshly-made liquid manure may be used as a substitute.

Lettuce: A few seeds broadcast into a box of soil, which should be maintained in a moist condition, will keep up the necessary supply of young plants. It should be remembered that tender, crisp lettuces can be produced only by rapid growth. They require a rich soil, plenty of water, and, when hearting, either a pinch of nitrate of



TOMATOES

TATURA GLOBE DWARF—August is the month to sow your Tomato seed, and as usual, we are on deck with the latest and best. We have secured a small supply of the new dwarf, which is not heavily wrinkled like the Australian Dwarf, but smooth round globe. This is we think, destined to entirely supersede the Australian Dwarf, being much earlier, a better cropper, and highly blight resistant. It is equally suitable for outdoors or the glass-house and needs no staking. Seed sown this month should give you ripe tomatoes before Christmas. 1/6 pkt., 1/8 posted.

CARLTON VICTORY TOMATO—Of the tall varieties this is the pick, for it produces immense crops of large fruit, often up to 1½ lbs. There is no core, very little seed, and good solid flesh right through. For main crop you cannot better Carlton Victory. 1/6 pkt., 1/8 posted.

POTENTATE—Smooth, round, comparatively small, going about 4 to lb., it is a marvellous cropper, the fruit hanging in immense clusters. The flavour is good, and it is the perfect shop tomato. 1/6 pkt., 1/2 posted.

CARLTON SEED CO
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