

along the sides. In furrows $\frac{1}{4}$ to 3-8 in. deep the seed should be sparsely sown, pressed into the soil, and covered with some of the sterilised soil which has been passed through a fine sieve. This operation being completed, the whole of the soil on top of the box should be gently but firmly pressed with a piece of dressed timber and covered with a sheet of glass, on top of which is laid a piece of newspaper. Before germination the sheet of glass should be turned daily. As soon as the seed begins to sprout all covering on the box should be removed, but no bright sunlight should be allowed direct access to the germinating seedlings; this is very important. Growing these seedlings is not a difficult job, but care and attention are necessary, and success brings a great amount of satisfaction.

According to the methods adopted during propagation, the seedlings will be ready for pricking out in 14 to 21 days, and by the end of this period they should be properly hardened off. Gradual exposure to lower temperatures is the safest method of achieving this. If tomato seed has not yet been obtained, or if none were saved from last year's crop, a trial might be made of Best of All. From experience it can be stated that it will stand sunshine after rain without cracking better than most varieties. It bears rather larger round fruits, but these are firmly held in good trusses on vigorous growth.

Turnips: Early sowings of these which may have been made during favourable weather conditions will, with the advent of spring, show a tendency to "bolt" to seed. As soon as this is noticed the entire bed should be dug in and fresh seed sown in another part of the garden. It is a

quick-maturing crop and is only palatable when young and fresh.

Radish: An odd corner of the garden can always be utilised to advantage by a small sowing of radish seed. With good soil and moist conditions the seed may be sown and the crop harvested in from 6 to 7 weeks. Successional sowings of small quantities of seed are most desirable, as the product can be used only when tender.

Carrots: In areas where the carrot rust-fly is prevalent sowings of carrot seed should be deferred until late November or early December. Fortunately, this remark does not, at present, apply to the South Island, where, so far as is known, the pest has not yet been recognised as having attacked carrots. Where thinning is carried out in existing beds care should be

exercised to see that the soil is pressed firmly against the crowns of the roots remaining in the ground.

Cauliflowers: During September seed should be sown to produce plants for late autumn maturity. The seedlings may very well be grown in a box $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 in. deep, or in a part of the garden where they will obtain plenty of sunshine and fair exposure. During late spring and summer young plants, if grown in carefully-sheltered spots, will not acquire the vigorous constitution necessary to withstand subsequent growing conditions. Phenomenal, Southern Cross, and Metropolis are recommended varieties.

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

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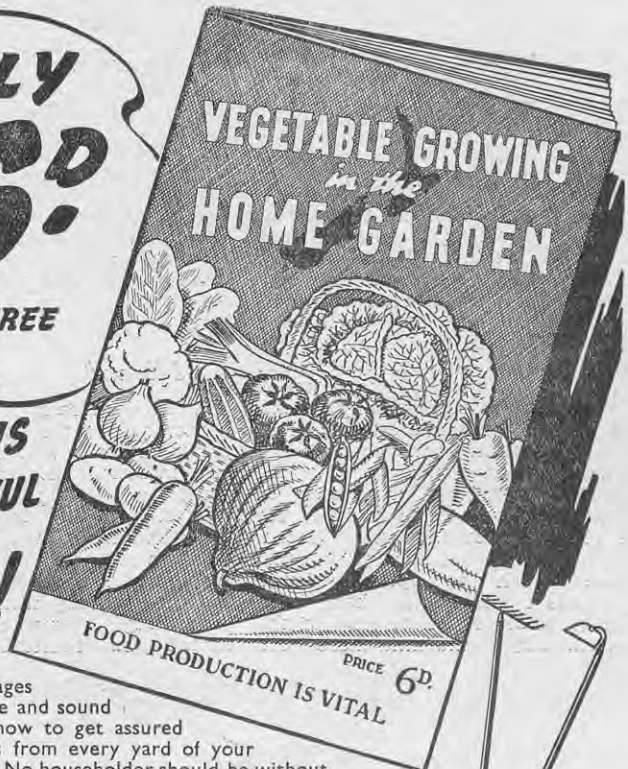
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