

favourable. If good plants are set out, they should provide heads for cutting from November to December. A further sowing of the varieties named above may now be made or succession may be arranged for by sowing varieties with different maturity periods, such as Golden Acre, Copenhagen Market, and Henderson's Succession cabbage and Early London, Phenomenal Five Months, and Phenomenal Main Crop cauliflower; all these varieties may be sown now or in a month's time.

The seed-bed for cabbage and cauliflower should be well drained and broken down to a very fine tilth. Sow $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, preferably in a row or in rows, as seedlings in rows are not only easier to cultivate and keep free from weeds, but are usually easier to lift. The ground where they are to be planted out should be deeply cultivated and enriched with farmyard and stable manure, but where this is not available a mixture of 2 parts of blood and bone and 1 part of superphosphate applied at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. a square yard is a good substitute. It is necessary to differentiate between the manuring of the seed-bed and the land on which the crop is to mature. The latter can, with benefit, be greatly enriched with manure, but as germinating seed is liable to rot if it comes in contact with a considerable quantity of manure, the seed-bed should receive only enough manure (and that well incorporated throughout) to give the young seedlings a good start.

Standing Green Crops

Green crops should be frequently hoed to keep down weeds and to loosen the soil. This permits better aeration and drainage and thus improves soil temperatures and encourages root action. It is at this time of year that the advantage of liberal spacing is manifest, for it permits easy cultivation without either danger of injury to foliage or roots or overconsolidation of the soil.

Only the late-maturing varieties of Savoy cabbage, such as Omega and Latest of All, now remain in most districts and gardeners having them will appreciate the value of summer planning.

It is still possible in most gardens to have a few late brussels sprouts, and crops like broccoli, silver beet, and spinach should be available in every good-sized garden. Autumn-planted spring cabbage should now be de-

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veloping well and in gardens that are not too exposed there should also be spring cauliflower to add variety to the succession. Spring cabbage, in particular, will benefit from the application of liquid manure. It is advisable to have organic liquid manure available for application to such crops, but sulphate of ammonia applied at the rate of 1oz. to 4 gallons of water is a good substitute. Broccoli plants should be watched for signs of approaching maturity, and if the curd is exposed, an inner leaf or two broken so as to cover it will give adequate protection from the light and frost and to some extent from the rain.

Herbs

Herbs such as parsley, mint, sage, and thyme should have a place in every home garden. They are best planted close together in a place where they will be easily accessible to the housewife.

Parsley should be sown in the autumn and again in early spring each year, as it has only a limited life. The seeds are slow to germinate and it is often advisable to sow them $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in a box and transplant them 6 to 9 in. apart.

Mint is usually propagated by rooted cuttings of the creeping stems, and in gardens that are inclined to be dry it is a good plan to plant it under or near the water tap. Should the garden soil be naturally moist, mint sometimes has a tendency to invade ground intended for other crops. In such situations it must be cut back regularly with a spade and the unwanted roots forked out before they become too firmly established.

Sage and thyme may be grown from seed sown in September or October, but both are more often propagated vegetatively, thyme by division of the roots and sage by cuttings taken in the late spring or early summer. Established beds of both herbs are usually lifted and the old plants divided or renewed every three years. Sage should be planted 18 in. apart in a warm, sandy soil, and thyme 1 ft. apart.

Onions

In the North Island onion plants from autumn-sown seed can be set out on a prepared bed as advised in last month's "Journal." In the South Island it is customary to grow such onions without thinning for use in December or January. They should be kept cultivated and free from weeds. An early spring sowing can be made in most districts if ground conditions are favourable, but in the south the ground is not generally warm enough to sow the main crop until September. In preparation for this the ground should be thoroughly

cultivated and a dressing of 2oz. of superphosphate plus 1oz. of muriate of potash and 3oz. of bonedust to the square yard should be broadcast over it. If convenient, the bonedust should be applied several weeks before planting or sowing. The onion repays good cultural methods, and organic manure such as farmyard or stable manure should be applied when the land is first dug in the autumn or early winter. The onion bed must be well drained and kept free from weeds. Potash manure is especially valuable and may be supplied by a heavy dressing of dry wood ash instead of muriate of potash.

Sow the seed $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in rows 12 to 15 in. apart. "Transplants" may be set out in rows 12 to 15 in. apart with about five plants to every foot of row. Pukekohe Longkeeper and Turbot are good-keeping varieties, and for more immediate use there are plenty of other good high-yielding varieties available, such as Ailsa Craig, Giant Rocca, and Brown Globe.

Parsnips

In home gardens a small early sowing of parsnips may now be made. Though the parsnip has a rather sweet flavour which is not as much in accord with modern tastes in vegetables as most other root crops, it is very useful for soups and stews. It requires a moderately-rich soil and does well in ground that was heavily manured for a previous crop. The tap root of most varieties penetrates deeply into the soil, and deep digging or trenching is therefore an advantage. Very early crops may be obtained by sowing a turnip-rooted variety which should mature in about 12 to 14 weeks. Most home gardeners, however, are content to grow parsnips only for late autumn or winter use, and they achieve this by sowing a variety such as Hollow Crown in October, November, or December.

Parsnips should be sown $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in rows at least 15 in. apart and require to be thinned 4 to 8 in. apart as soon as the seedlings are well established.

Peas

Provided conditions are favourable, an early sowing of peas may now be made in most districts. Before sowing, the peas should be dressed with a suitable seed protector as advised in last month's "Journal." To maintain a succession of crops varieties of similar maturity periods should be sown at regular fortnightly or monthly intervals, or alternatively several varieties such as Massey, Onward, and Strata-gem, which mature in that order, may be sown at the same time.