

Varieties exemplifying three types of celery are:—

Golden self-blanching type: White Plume: Dwarf habit; a good early variety. **Gilt Edge Golden:** A stocky, very heavy, perfectly solid variety with a splendid flavour; it is the variety most popular with commercial growers.

Late type: Solid White: Excellent late variety; very hardy. The best of the English large, white-stemmed sorts.

Pink or red type: Superb Pink and London Prize: Flavour is nut-like, quite distinct, and pleasant; the pink, red, or purplish colour is distributed over the outer stalks, but mostly at the margins of the inner stalks, which are otherwise white or cream.

The best varieties for the home gardener for December to January planting are White Plume and Gilt Edge Golden. For winter growing Solid White is best.

Celeriac

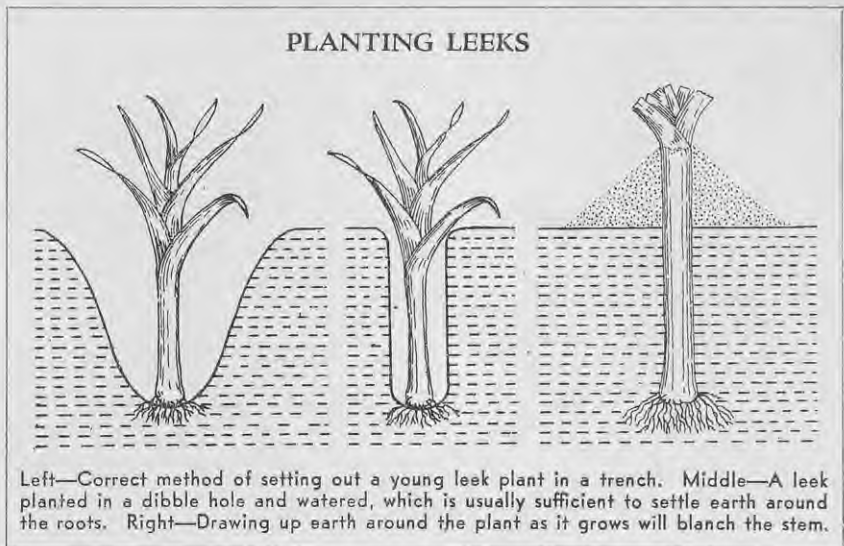
Celeriac is a member of the celery family and has a large turnip-like root, which is the portion of the plant that is eaten. The roots are trimmed, washed, and boiled without salt or other flavouring until quite tender. They may be pared, sliced, and served with white sauce or left uncut to be sliced up for salads when cold. Many people use celeriac in soups and stews.

The seed may be sown outdoors from September to January, and subsequent treatment of the seedlings is similar to that given celery seedlings.

Celeriac does best in a deep, moist soil with good humus content. The seedlings should be planted on flat beds in rows 18in. apart, with 12in. between the plants. Celeriac does not require blanching.



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]
As tomato plants grow they should be tied to supports and the lateral growths (indicated above by the arrows) coming from the axils of the leaves should be rubbed off before they become too large. Flower trusses should not be removed.



Left—Correct method of setting out a young leek plant in a trench. Middle—A leek planted in a dibble hole and watered, which is usually sufficient to settle earth around the roots. Right—Drawing up earth around the plant as it grows will blanch the stem.

Leeks

A member of the *Allium* or onion family, the leek is a most delicious vegetable both cooked and green. It is very hardy and the seed is usually sown in seed-beds in September for replanting in the garden in December or January.

Leeks must be grown in rich ground; otherwise they are liable to become tough. The best soil is a deep, rich, friable loam, but good results may be obtained on fairly heavy ground, providing it has been well prepared. For best results the soil should be enriched

with well-decayed stable or animal manure or compost and a fertiliser mixture composed of equal parts of blood and bone and superphosphate plus 5 per cent. of sulphate of potash or muriate of potash should be worked into the soil at the rate of 4oz. per square yard.

Plants can be set out 6 to 8in. apart in rows 18in. apart when the young seedlings are about the thickness of a lead pencil; transplant them into holes made 5 to 6in. deep with a dibble. The plant is dropped into the hole and watered; this is usually sufficient to settle earth around the roots. When transplanting cut back the leaves, as this helps the stem to develop, and trim the roots to within 1½in. of the bulb.

Leeks may also be planted out like celery in trenches 5 to 6in. deep. The trenches may be narrower than those used for celery, but the plants require more room and should be spaced 12in. apart when grown in this manner.

When cultivating, gradually fill in the holes and as the plants grow draw the soil up around them to cause the stems to lengthen. This will blanch the lower parts of stems of the leeks grown in drills and the whole of those grown in trenches.

Cultivate the ground well between the rows and around the plants to conserve the soil moisture and check weeds. Leeks require plenty of moisture and must be kept well watered in dry weather while the crop is growing. Be careful when hoeing or drawing up the soil not to cover the heart of the plant.

Leeks are ready for use any time after they attain suitable size, but under favourable conditions they grow to at least 1½in. in diameter with usable stalks 8 to 12in. long. Leeks will keep in perfect condition right through the winter and will not deteriorate in quality until they begin to develop seed stalks in spring.