

containing blood and bone 1 part, superphosphate 2 parts, and sulphate of potash 1/20 part (all by weight) may be applied at the rate of 2 to 4oz. per square yard and will be suitable for most soils. It is preferable for beet to be planted without additional fertiliser in land previously occupied by a crop which has been heavily manured.

Seed should be sown thinly 1/2 in. deep in rows 12 in. apart and the plants later thinned to 3 to 4 in. apart in the rows.

Recommended varieties of beetroot for January planting are Early Wonder and Derwent Globe.

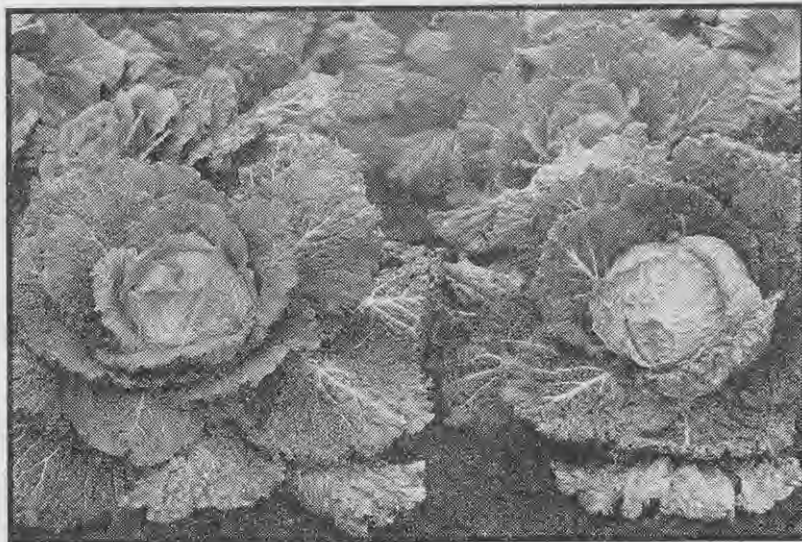
Kohl Rabi (Turnip-rooted Cabbage)

Kohl rabi resembles an above-ground turnip; the fleshy, edible portion is an enlargement of the stem and it is a highly nutritive vegetable combining the flavour of cabbage and turnip. The large, bulb-like stem is the part generally used, although the leaves may be cut and used like cabbage.

Kohl rabi should be grown quickly and used when the bulbs are from 3 to 4 in. in diameter, as if left to grow to maturity, bulbs become tough and stringy. Kohl rabi may be sown from early spring to February, but January sowing is most favoured, as the crop then matures in late autumn when other vegetables are perhaps a little scarce. It does best in a well-worked deep loam. Like cabbage it will not do well on an acid soil, and if this condition exists, it should be corrected by applying carbonate of lime (4oz. to a square yard).

As kohl rabi does not transplant readily, it is best sown direct in the permanent position. Sow seed thinly 1/2 in. deep in rows 18 in. apart and thin plants to 6 to 8 in. in the rows. Fertiliser containing blood and bone 2 parts, superphosphate 1 part, and sulphate of potash 1/20 part (all by weight) should be applied at the rate of 4oz. per square yard.

In cultivation be careful not to cover soil over the hearts of the plants and not to cover the bulbs. The bulb-like stems should be ready for use about 4 months after the seed was sown.



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]
Savoy cabbages are really a winter-maturing crop and will tolerate cold conditions better than other varieties.

Varieties: A very popular variety is White Vienna, an early dwarf excellent for home gardens. The bulbs are globular and very light green and the flesh is clear white, tender, and crisp. Purple Vienna takes about a week longer to mature than the white variety; the bulb and leaves are purplish and the flesh greenish white.

Lettuce

Lettuce, possibly the most popular and widely grown green vegetable, is used mainly for salads. Although a succession may be provided the whole year by sowing every 4 weeks, it is rather difficult to produce at this period of the year. The most common cause of lettuce failing to heart during hot weather is lack of moisture at some stage of growth causing a check

and consequent promotion of seed-stem development. Unless plants are grown rapidly they tend to be tough and bitter; this is particularly so in summer and autumn.

A rich, friable soil is the most suitable. This should be well dug and enriched with compost or well-rotted stable or farmyard manure. If the soil condition is poor, the fertility should be increased by an application of equal parts of dried blood manure and superphosphate at the rate of 8oz. per square yard. Lettuce may be sown direct in the rows in the garden from October (later in the south) to March. At other times it is preferable to raise the seedlings in warm, sheltered beds and transplant them. The soil should be worked to a fine tilth before sowing the seed, and if the soil is dry, it should be watered thoroughly. When it has drained sufficiently to work, drills may be prepared and the seed sown thinly 1/2 in. deep in rows 12 in. apart. The plants should be thinned to 6 to 9 in. apart in the rows as soon as possible.

Lettuce should not be watered overhead in bright sunshine during hot weather as this may cause scorching of the tender leaves. This scorching may be followed by secondary decay or fungous rots. Irrigation is preferable in hot weather.

Watering may be necessary every 6 to 7 days on sandy soils and every 10 days on heavy soils during hot weather. Watering should cease as the plants near maturity to prevent the heads from splitting. Each watering should be sufficiently heavy to soak the soil several inches deep; light waterings are likely to do more harm than good.

Recommended varieties for sowing in very warm conditions are Great Lakes and Imperial 847; and for average conditions Neapolitan (Webbs Wonderful) and Champion Cabbage.



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]
Cauliflowers are not difficult to grow where conditions are right.