

the certified copper oxychloride mixtures are often preferred by home gardeners because of their ease of preparation compared with Bordeaux mixture.

Varieties: For early planting Epicure, Cliffs Kidney, and Arran Banner are recommended, for second early Arran Banner, Majestic, and Aucklander Short Top will be found satisfactory, and Arran Chief, Dakota Red, and Aucklander Short Top are popular as main-crop varieties. Dakota Red produces best in southern districts.

Salad Vegetables

As salad vegetables are best when young and fresh, frequent sowings are necessary. They should be grown rapidly and require a good, rich soil and a well-prepared seed-bed.

Lettuce

Seed of lettuce should be sown 1/4 in. deep in rows 9 to 12 in. apart in well-drained and well-cultivated soil of high humus content. In cool weather lettuce do best when transplanted and are usually set out 9 to 12 in. apart. In hot, dry weather they may be sown thinly in rows 12 in. apart and later thinned to 9 in. between the plants. Transplanting in hot weather often causes plants to bolt. In southern districts where frosts occur in spring early plants should be raised under glass or in boxes. When plants are large enough for setting out in the open care must be taken to see that they are well hardened off or their growth may be seriously retarded if a spell of cold weather is experienced following planting.

Varieties: For growing in winter especially adapted varieties such as Imperial 615 and Neapolitan (winter) are most suitable. For summer cultivation varieties such as Great Lakes and Imperial 847 are preferred, as they stand up better in warm weather.

Radish

Radishes are easy to grow, require little space, and are ready for use 3 to 6 weeks after sowing. They are adversely affected by hot, dry weather and remain in prime condition only a few days. To be mild, tender, and attractive they must be grown quickly and have plenty of moisture. Seed should be sown thinly every 3 or 4 weeks 1/4 in. deep in rows 12 in. apart in well-drained, free, deeply dug soil that contains plenty of humus.

Varieties: Of the long varieties Icicle and Long Scarlet are best. Of the turnip-shaped, round, and oval varieties the best are Red Turnip, White Turnip, and French Breakfast.

Spring Onions

Varieties of onions suitable for pulling young for salads are White Lisbon or Odourless. For best results successive sowings should be made. Sow seed 1/4 in. deep in rows 12 in. apart in a well-drained soil that has been worked down to a fine, firm tilth.

Endive

Endive, an excellent salad plant, is not grown to the extent that its usefulness justifies. It is particularly good for winter use, as it can be substituted for lettuce, which is sometimes difficult to produce in cold weather. For a winter and spring crop sow the seed as for lettuce in an outdoor seed-bed in February and March and keep it moist during dry weather. For the summer and early-autumn crop seed may be sown in September. When about 2 to 3 in. high plants should be set in rows 2 ft. apart with 12 in. between plants in the rows. Cultivate with the hoe to keep weeds down and to loosen the soil. Endive must be grown quickly and must not receive a check or the leaves tend to develop a bitter flavour. Pick for salads or for boiling as greens any time after leaves are 4 in. high; the early leaves can be cut and more allowed to grow.

Partial blanching usually improves the flavour of the leaves and renders them more crisp and tender. Successful blanching depends on excluding the light from the inner leaves and keeping them dry. A convenient method is to gather the leaves in a bunch when the heart is nearly mature and tie them near the top; this should be done when the leaves are dry. Blanching may also be done with two boards fastened together over the row in the shape of an inverted V, or each plant may be covered with a flowerpot with the hole stopped. Blanching is completed in about 14 days, when the plant should be used as soon as possible, as it is then liable to decay.

Varieties: Commonly grown varieties are Moss Curled and Fringe Leaved, the former being the more popular.

Horse Radish

Horse radish is grown for its pungent roots, which are grated, mixed with salt and vinegar, and eaten as a relish, condiment, or appetiser with meats or other food. Though there is little choice of variety, care should be taken to obtain good healthy planting stock of a strain that is giving good results where it is to be grown. Horse radish does best on deeply worked, well-drained, well-manured loam. No

fresh manure must be mixed with the surface soil, as this causes the roots to fork. Horse radish seldom develops fertile seed and therefore is propagated from roots or root cuttings, which are very hardy and persistent. If it is not treated as an annual and carefully dug up each year, it tends to spread and become a pest. Horse radish may be planted in September from root cuttings preferably 6 in. long and set in rows 2 ft. apart between the sets in the rows. Plant the roots in a slanting position with the thick end facing upward and the top of the cutting about 2 in. below the top of the soil.

The only cultivation necessary is keeping the surface soil free of weeds and occasional hoeing to conserve soil moisture. Since horse radish makes its greatest growth late in the season, harvesting should be delayed until as late in autumn as possible. When lifted, roots may be stored in dry sand and drawn on as required.

Seed Drills

Apart from wooden markers the most convenient tools for making the seed drills are the ordinary swan-necked hoe and garden rake. For forming a shallow drill the rake should be turned teeth uppermost and held at an angle of about 45 degrees and the back pressed into the soil to the desired depth. By moving the rake and keeping it parallel with the garden line and repeating this operation the entire drill is formed. In drawing the drill out with the hoe the blade should be tilted on its edge and only the corner used. By using short frequently repeated strokes the drill can be drawn straighter and a more regular depth kept than if long continuous strokes are used. The maintenance of correct even depth is important because variations are likely to cause irregularity or failure of germination, which will make thinning more difficult or cause blank spaces in the rows.

Spacing and Marking Rows

Various methods can be used for spacing rows. Some gardeners have the rake or hoe handle marked into 6 in. spaces, which is quite a good method, but a 6 to 10 ft. length of 1 1/2 in. x 1 in. or similar light batten marked at the desired intervals or having 6 in. spacings painted on it will be found very useful both for marking off the distance between the rows and the distance between the plants in the row. A good-quality garden line is essential and should be affixed to 12 to 15 in. long pegs sharpened at one end.

Seed Sowing

Good seed is essential to success in vegetable growing. The most careful and efficient gardener cannot achieve success with poor seed even if he gives the closest attention to other factors of production.

As the seed is the basis of the crop and its cost is of little consequence in the total cost of production of most vegetable crops, the grower cannot afford to take chances. Only the best seeds or plants obtainable should be used.

Quantity of seed to sow: The rate of sowing should be just sufficient to produce a uniform stand without overcrowding the plants and so necessitating undue thinning. In estimating the rate of sowing it is necessary to take into account several factors.



Moulding established crops of cabbage, cauliflower, peas, and beans. A—The wrong way of drawing the soil up to plants; there is not sufficient room for root development and the soil is liable to dry out. B—Correct method of moulding. The wide flat-topped ridge can take in and retain moisture and there is ample room for roots to develop.