

well manured. If the soil is poor, a mixture of equal parts by weight of blood and bone and superphosphate and 1/20 part of sulphate of potash applied at 4oz. a square yard and thoroughly worked into the soil will be beneficial. Do not be too generous with the manure, because heavy manuring, particularly with nitrogenous organic manures, tends to promote excessive vegetative or straw growth and makes the crop more liable to disease. Peas, like most vegetable crops, do not grow well on acid soils and most soils will benefit from an annual dressing of 4oz. of carbonate of lime a square yard. Drills spaced 2ft. 6in. apart should be drawn 2½ to 3in. deep with a hoe and the peas scattered the width of the drill; allow from 1 to 2in. between the seeds. Dwarf varieties grown at this season of the year seldom require supports; drawing up the soil to them is usually sufficient.

Suitable varieties for sowing now are: Earlicrop, William Massey, Little Marvel, Utility, and Blue Bantam.

Beetroot

Though beetroot can be sown in northern districts as late as March, further south, where frosts are earlier and generally heavier, it is usually advantageous to sow early to allow time for bulb development.

Beet is not particular as to soil and good crops can be grown in almost any well-worked and well-drained soil containing humus and not lacking lime. A soil that was heavily manured for a previous crop is excellent, but if plant foods are thought to be lacking, the addition of a mixture of 1 part of blood and bone, 2 parts of superphosphate, and 1/20 part of sulphate or muriate of potash, all by weight, at the rate of 4oz. a square yard will be suitable for most soils.

Seed should be sown ½in. deep in rows 12in. apart and the plants subsequently thinned to 3 to 4in. apart in the rows. Provided conditions are not



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]
Banana squash grows similarly to the pumpkin. It is of good flavour and dry when cooked, with a deep orange flesh. It is an excellent keeper.

too hot or dry, seedlings removed during thinning may be used for transplanting to another bed. They should be well watered after being set out.

Varieties

Types of beetroot and varieties of each type (with maturity period of the variety in days shown in parentheses) are as follows:—

- Flat:** Egyptian, Early Wonder (52).
- Round or globular:** Crimson Globe, Derwent Globe, Detroit Dark Red (60).
- Half-long:** Obelisk (65).
- Long:** Long Smooth Red, Long Dark Blood (78).

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



[Photo News Ltd. photo.]
Beetroot is a useful vegetable at any period of the year, and to have good-quality bulbs available, successive sowings should be made from early spring to March.

Swedes

In northern districts and where soil moisture can be maintained and a fairly long growing season is assured seed of swede turnips can still be sown as advised in last month's "Journal". Swedes are easy to grow, are high yielding, and have a higher food value than ordinary turnips. If sown now, they will be harvested before reaching full maturity and will be found of superior flavour to earlier-sown ones. Swedes are of especial value, as they will keep in good condition throughout winter.

A quick-maturing variety is Garden Swede.

Parsnips

Tender well-grown parsnips are popular, and although they require a long season of growth to develop to their full size, seed of the Oxheart variety sown now as advised in last month's "Journal" will produce sizable roots by winter.

Chinese Cabbage

Chinese cabbage is not grown to a great extent by home gardeners and is often considered a new vegetable. It is probably a native of China, where it has been cultivated since the fifth century. It is a useful vegetable and deserves a place in the home garden. The leaves are stripped from the midribs and boiled like spinach and the midribs may be cooked and served like celery or asparagus. Chinese cabbage can also be eaten raw like lettuce.

Chinese cabbage is an annual and has few characteristics of common cabbage. Two distinct species are grown: Pakchoi and Pe Tsai. The Pakchoi varieties resemble silver beet in habit of growth. The leaves are long, dark green, and oval. This type does not form a solid head. Pe Tsai varieties are somewhat like cos lettuce, but produce a much larger and longer head which is compact; the leaves are slightly wrinkled, green, thin, and thickly veined with a broad midrib.