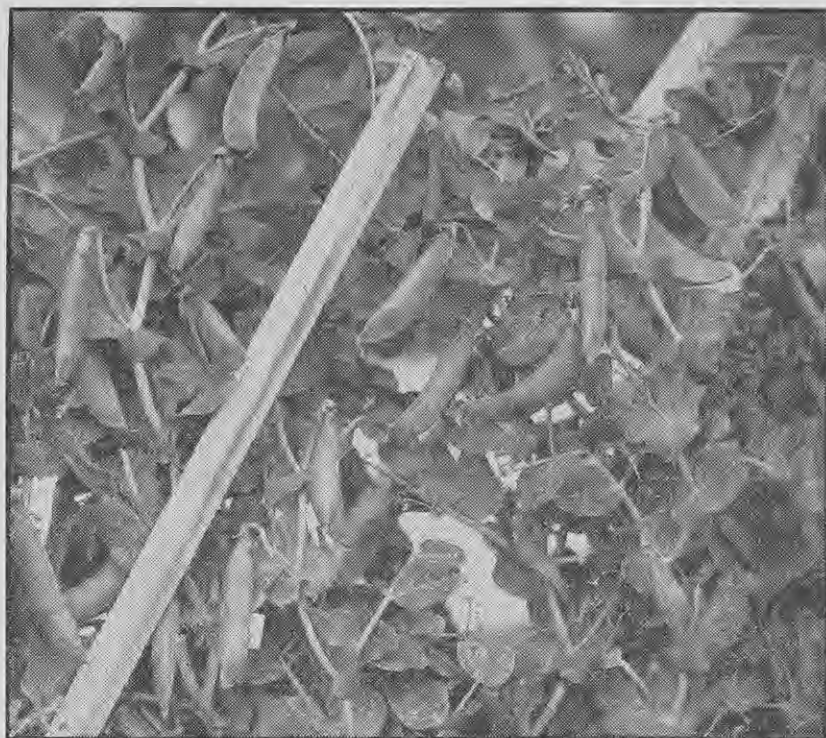


in salads. Even the leaf stalk can be used when it has developed well.

Plants may be set out now, but as celeriac is not as well known as celery, few seedsmen sell plants, though most sell seed. Because it is very hardy, does not require to be blanched, and succeeds on a wide range of rich, moist, well-drained soils, celeriac deserves to be more extensively grown by home gardeners who have a liking for the flavour of celery. Seed is usually sown $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep in rows 15 in. apart when the ground has warmed in late September or October, though a sowing can be made in January where conditions are favourable. Plants can now be thinned to or set out 6 in. to 8 in. apart in rows 18 in. apart.

Plants should not be set out deeply and should be liberally watered in dry weather. In very dry situations plants should be set out in shallow trenches to facilitate watering. Plants should be set out in a rich soil so that they make vigorous, continuous growth. During cultivation side shoots should be removed and the soil dragged away from the bulbous root, which should be kept trimmed of all suckers, as they tend to detract from its shapely development.

In districts which experience repeated severe frosts the roots can be lightly earthed up in autumn for protection, but lifting and storing are unnecessary except in heavy, poorly drained soil in exposed situations. Varieties include Celeriac and Giant Smooth Prague.



Peas are a popular vegetable in most households. A successional sowing in January should provide supplies in autumn.

Lettuce

Where a succession of lettuce is desired seed in January is best sown in the situation where the crop is to mature. Though lettuce, like such subjects as cabbage, beets, and tomato, transplants readily, its ability to withstand transplanting depends on several factors. In such plants damaged and destroyed roots are normally replaced quickly by new growth, but this depends on the ability of the roots to absorb water readily, and the relative ability to absorb water depends in turn on the amount of suberin or corky covering on the roots; the thicker or more distinct the covering is the slower the absorption will be. Other factors such as the reserve of food in the plant are, however, also likely to be important. In January, when conditions are very dry, the check of transplanting, even if the work is done with the greatest care, is likely to be so severe that sowing in the place where the plants are to mature is preferable.

Lettuce thrives in cool, moist, well-drained soils and should be grown quickly or it tends to be tough and bitter. Seed should be sown thinly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in rows 12 in. apart. The soil should be cultivated to a very fine tilth and it should be rich in organic matter.



Cabbage badly damaged by caterpillars of the white butterfly and diamond-backed moth. These caterpillars can be controlled readily by spraying or dusting with DDT.