

of its culture it is rather surprising that it is not more commonly grown in New Zealand. Most crops have attained optimum development by January and water should then be withheld and the bulbs permitted to dry off.

If shallots are carefully harvested when properly dry and then stored in a cool place, they should keep until the following spring. Proper drying and sorting over of the bulbs before storage are important. Bulbs that have been fed with excessive quantities of nitrogenous manures are difficult to harden off and should be kept for short storage; damaged bulbs should be used at once or destroyed.

Sweet Corn

Sweet corn bears separate male and female flowers, the tassel being the male inflorescence and the ear the female. Pollination normally takes place as soon as the silks appear and development of the cob should be rapid thereafter; the edible stage is usually reached 2 to 4 weeks later according to temperature, usually when the tassel has just withered.

Maturity is commonly tested by thumbnail pressure. The young grains are first watery inside, then milky, then doughy, and finally the "dent" stage is reached, when the grains are too hard to be palatable.

Cobs should be harvested with a gentle jerk or cut with a sharp knife when the milky part of the grain is beginning to thicken but is still milky. In very exposed situations it is advisable to stake sweet corn, but in most situations earthing up of the stems will provide all the support necessary. Suckers often develop, but there is no evidence that their removal promotes earliness or increases the number or weight of the ears on the stem.

Swedes and Turnips

In northern districts where conditions are not too dry and a reasonably long growing season is assured seed of swede turnips can still be sown as advised in the October "Journal". Swedes are high yielding and usually considered richer in plant food than ordinary turnips and are especially useful during winter. To be of good quality turnips, like radish, should be

grown quickly. Soil for them should be well drained but moist and rich in humus and cultivated to a fine tilth. The crop can be grown on most garden soils, but a light loam is preferable. Superphosphate has given good results on many agricultural soils, though a complete fertiliser is likely to be most satisfactory on many of the less fertile, well-worked home garden soils.

In most southern districts or in areas where adequate soil moisture can be maintained January is a good time to sow turnips. Elsewhere sowing is often delayed until cooler or more moist conditions are assured. Good varieties include Purple Top, White Milan, Purple Prince, and Golden Ball. A variety such as Golden Ball is often chosen for December to March sowing, because yellow varieties usually stand longer under adverse conditions than the white sorts. Seed should be sown thinly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in rows 12 in. apart and plants later thinned to 3 in. to 4 in. apart.

All photographs by Green and Hahn.

Agricultural and Pastoral Show Dates

THE following are dates and venues of A. and P. shows up to the end of April:—

NORTH ISLAND

January

- 2 January—Nuhaka A. and P. at Nuhaka.
- 13 and 14 January—Waioa County A. and P. at Waioa.
- 20 and 21 January—Feilding I. A., and P. at Feilding.
- 21 January—Central Hawke's Bay A. and P. at Waipukurau.
- *21 January—Whangaroa A. and P. at Kaeo.
- 27 and 28 January—Horowhenua A. and P. at Levin.
- 27 and 28 January—Rotorua A. and P. at Rotorua.
- 28 January—North Kaipara A. and P. at Paparoa.
- *30 January—North Hokianga A. and P. at Broadwood.

February

- 1 February—Marton A. and P. at Marton.
- 3 and 4 February—Rodney A. and P. at Warkworth.
- 4 February—Rangitikei A. and P. at Taihape.
- 7 and 8 February—Dannevirke District A. and P. at Dannevirke.
- 10 February—Dannevirke Ram Fair at Dannevirke.
- 10 and 11 February—Taumarunui and District A. and P. at Taumarunui.
- 10 and 11 February—Taranaki A. and P. at New Plymouth.
- 11 February—Hukerenui A. and P. at Hukerenui.
- 11 February—Pahiatua A. and P. at Pahiatua.
- *11 February—Galatea A. and P. at Galatea.
- 15 February—Te Awamutu A., P., and H. at Te Awamutu.

- 17 and 18 February—Ohura A., P., H., and I. at Nihonihio.
- 17 and 18 February—Franklin A. and P. at Pukekohe.
- 17 and 18 February—Masterton A. and P. at Masterton.
- 18 February—Northern Waioa A. and P. at Mititai.
- *18 February—Tauranga A. and P. at Tauranga.
- *21 February—Otorohanga A. and P. at Otorohanga.
- 23 February—Matamata A. and P. at Matamata.
- 24 and 25 February—Wellington and Hutt Valley A. and P. at Trentham.
- 24 and 25 February—Te Kuiti and District A. and P. at Te Kuiti.
- 25 February—Te Puke A. and P. at Paengaroa.
- 25 February—Putaruru District A. and P. at Putaruru.

March

- *3 March—Whakatane A. and P. at Whakatane.
- 3 March—Waioitira Junction A. and P. at Waioitira.
- 3 March—Mangonui County A. and P. at Kaitake.
- 3 March—Albany A. and P. at Albany.
- 3 March—Waikato Central A. and P. at Cambridge.
- *7 March—Morrinsville A. and P. at Morrinsville.
- 7 March—Opotiki A. and P. at Opotiki.
- 10 March—Kumeu District A. and H. at Kumeu.
- 10 March—Hawke's Bay A. and P. at Hastings.
- *17 March—Wellsford A. and P. at Wellsford.

SOUTH ISLAND

January

- 14 January—Blueskin A. and P. at Waitati.
- 21 January—Peninsula H. and P. at Duvauchelle.

- 21 January—Waikouaiti A. and P. at Waikouaiti.

- *21 January—Wallace A. and P. at Otautau.
- 28 January—Palmerston and Waihemo A. and P. at Palmerston.
- 28 January—Waiau A. and P. at Tuatapere.

February

- 2 and 3 February—Otago A. and P. at Dunedin.
- 11 February—Golden Bay A. and P. at Takaka.
- *12 February—Inangahua A. and P. at Inangahua.
- 18 February—Banks Peninsula A. and P. at Little River.
- 18 February—Murchison A. and P. at Murchison.
- *18 February—Central Otago A. and P. at Omakau.
- *25 February—Kaikoura A. and P. at Kaikoura.
- 25 February—Maniototo A. and P. at Ranfurly.

March

- 3 March—Amuri A. and P. at Rotherham.
- 3 March—Temuka and Geraldine A. and P. at Winchester.
- 10 March—Cheviot A. and P. at Cheviot.
- 10 March—Mt. Benger A. and P. at Roxburgh.
- *13 March—Lake County A. and P. at Arrowtown.
- 17 March—Hawarden A. and P. at Hawarden.
- 17 March—Mayfield A. and P. at Mayfield.
- 17 March—Upper Clutha A. and P. at Wanaka.
- *24 March—Methven A. and P. at Methven.

April

- 2 April—Mackenzie County A. and P. at Fairlie.
- 2 April—Strath-Taleri A. and P. at Middlemarch.
- 7 April—Oxford A. and P. at Oxford.
- 11 April—Malvern A. and P. at Sheffield.

* The Department of Agriculture exhibit will be staged at this show.