

The Home Garden in November

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HALF-HARDY and tender crops should be sown or planted as soon as the ground is in suitable condition and frost danger is past, but over-enthusiasm should not lead to planting up the garden fully now with half-hardy and hardy crops for summer and autumn so that there is no room for provision of winter supplies. Continuity of supply is very important in the home garden.

SUCCESSIONAL sowings of carrots can be continued or the main crop can be put in. The soil should be in good condition and should contain sufficient moisture, as dryness checks growth and young plants so affected succumb quickly to aphid attack. Later sowings of intermediate or stump-rooted kinds usually result in the production of good-quality roots in late autumn, whereas roots from earlier sowings have by that time usually become large and may be rather coarse.

A close watch should be kept for aphids. Carrot aphids are small, globular, and green or yellowish green and may be wingless or have four transparent wings. They suck the sap



Weeds can be kept down most effectively by hoeing, but this should be done regularly because weeds can be controlled best and most easily when small.

and stunt growth so that young plants may wilt in hot weather. The foliage may change to a bronze, bluish, or reddish hue and become distorted. The tiny white specks present are the cast skins of the aphids. Aphids can be controlled by spraying with nicotine sulphate or lindane.

The carrot rust fly is also troublesome in some districts in late

November and December. The adult fly is about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. long. It has a yellowish head, yellow legs, one pair of wings, and lays its eggs near the crown of the carrot. The larvae or maggots are slender, creamy white, rather rigid, legless, and up to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long; they are broad at one end and taper off to a slender head.

After hatching the larvae burrow down and attack the taproot, leaving rusty brown tunnels which at first are only near the surface of the carrot. Young carrots may wilt or die.

Control consists mainly of treating the seed with lindane or dieldrin and, if necessary, regular spraying with either of these substances. Spraying any nearby hedges with DDT to kill the flies is of some value.

Celery

Where conditions are warm enough celery can be set out during November in beds or trenches in soil that has been heavily manured. Beds for self-blanching celery are usually made four to six rows wide with the plants 10 to 12 in. apart each way. In trenches a double row (9 to 12 in. between the two rows) with 9 to 12 in. between the plants is satisfactory. The trench can be up to 12 in. deep.

Double rows can be blanched by drawing the soil high against the ribs (care being taken not to allow any

SOWING AND PLANTING

Sow or Plant When Frost Danger has Passed

Beans (dwarf and runner), cucumbers, marrows, New Zealand spinach, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, yams. In specially favourable situations: Egg plants, kumaras, melons, okra, peppers.

Successional or Main-crop Sowings

Beetroot, cabbages (summer and pickling), carrots, cauliflowers, Chinese cabbages, celeriac, herbs, kohlrabi, lettuces, onions for salads, parsnips, parsley, radishes, salsify, scorzonera, silver beet, spinach beet, swedes, tampala, turnips.

Plants and Tubers to Set out as Required

Brussels sprouts (an early planting if necessary), cabbages (summer or autumn), cauliflowers, celery, celeriac, cucumbers, lettuces, potatoes (late planting if desired).

Beetroot and carrots can be transplanted in favourable circumstances.

*Sow for Winter Use as Required

Broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbages (savoy or winter), kale or borecole.

* Except in favourable far northern districts when later sowing is satisfactory.