



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. Massey

The Garden in June

CUTTING of asparagus should stop in the South by the tenth of June. Then the plot should be well fertilized and cleanly cultivated in order to get the strongest possible growth to give large shoots the next season. When frost comes clean off the tops and cover the whole bed thickly with manure for the winter.

Plant a row of snap beans at a time, and as fast as one row is up plant another, and keep this up till August in order to have a regular succession for the table. The bush lima beans and the climbing small lima or butter bean can still be planted. A wire fence is a good place for the butter beans. The Fordhook bush lima is the best of the bush sorts.

The middle of the month and to the first of July is a good time to plant cabbage seed for the late crop. For this crop sow the seed in a bed convenient to water and then never allow the plants to suffer for lack of water. Get strong plants, for little spindling plants are hard to make live in hot weather. I have set plants with stems as thick as stout lead pencil with the best success. For the late crop I prefer a good strain of the old Late Flat Dutch. The Danish Ballhead is also good, but succeeds best on a lighter soil. For quality the Drumhead Savoy is excellent.

The last of the month sow Blood Turnip beets and carrots for winter use. I sow the Danvers Half-long carrot. These and the late beets I leave in the rows all winter, throwing a slight furrow to each side, and they keep better than if lifted.

Salsify and parsnip should now be sown. In the North these are sown early in spring, but in the South later sowing is best, as they are apt to get woody or run to seed here if sown early. To get a good germination of parsnips I find it an advantage to plant the seed in little bunches about four inches apart, as a pinch of seed will force its way through more easily than a single seed, and the bunches are easily thinned. The salsify is sown in a continuous row and thinned while small to three inches apart.

Cucumbers for pickling should now be planted. Plant in hills five by three feet. Use plenty of seed to make sure of a stand in spite of the bugs. Dust them over just as they come through the ground with plaster or bone dust, or in fact any dusty material to keep the little striped beetles in check. Tobacco dust is good, and will help the plants too. I plant the Davis Perfect.

Succession plantings of corn should be kept up till late July, planting a few rows of the Country Gentleman or the Stowell Evergreen as soon as the previous planting is well up. The Mammoth sugar corn is stronger in growth and makes larger ears, but is not of as good quality as the first named sorts.

The first of June is the best time to set the egg plants outside, for they need the soil to be permanently warm. I keep mine in four-inch pots, setting the pots in a cold frame about the 20th of May and attending closely to them by covering with the sashes on chilly nights, for they are more tender than tomato plants. I am growing the Black Beauty and Maule's Excelsior. The last is the larger fruited, but the first is more prolific.

If you sowed leek seed early in spring the plants will be ready to transplant the last of June. I set

them in open furrows three inches apart, and as they grow pull the soil to them in order to get a good long white shank. These are hardy and are left in the ground all winter, and come in very nicely till the green onions are ready.

The Yellow Potato onions are now ripening. As the tops turn over and get yellow pull them and cure them with the tops on, and do not remove the tops till wanted for use or sale. Late in the month the sets grown from spring-sown seed will be ready to harvest. As the tops die take them up and sift the sand and soil from them and store till wanted for planting in the fall to make early green onions. I use the Norfolk Queen onion for this planting, as it is the earliest I have tried.

If you like Okra and failed to plant it in May plant now at any time till middle of month. I have planted the Perkins Long Pod and the Kleckley, the first a green podded sort and the latter a white one.

Sweet pepper plants can still be

the respective earliness of these three varieties.

Onions Running to Seed

FROM eastern North Carolina: "I have an acre of onions that are showing buttons and threatening to run to seed. If they go to seed will the bulbs be of any account?"

No, if you let them run up to bloom the bulbs will be hollow and worthless. But if you nip out the bloom stalk as soon as it shows you can save the onion.

Growing Salsify and Celery

FROM North Carolina: Is it necessary to take up salsify in the fall and put in hills like turnips to keep it from getting pithy? What kind of a soil is best and how shall I prepare and set out celery plants? Will chufas grow in this part of the state in rich, red loamy soil?"

Salsify should remain in the rows where it grew. It will keep growing till Christmas or later, and never gets pithy, but can be taken up during the winter as needed. Out of the ground it soon wilts and gets poor.

Celery needs a rich, strong and moist soil. The middle of August is time enough to set the plants, for we cannot grow early celery in this climate. It is best to lift the plants from the seed bed as soon as large enough to

late winter or to ripen the next summer. For this planting the Yellow Potato onions will be best, for the offsets can be pulled for green onions in the spring and the main bulb left to ripen. You can do this year after year with peas and heavy fertilizing, and get improving crops of onions for a number of years. How many you can make on an acre that will not make more than 25 bushels of corn an acre I cannot say. To make a good crop, you would have to build up that land till it would make 100 bushels an acre. Land that will make but 25 bushels of corn an acre is not in condition to make large crops of onions.

I know nothing about the nostrums you mention and do not want to know. I know that most of the stuff sold as medicines under fancy names are worthless. If you are sick do not try to doctor yourself with stuff that you know nothing about and which may not be what you need. Consult a doctor when sick. There is an old saying that a man who tries to plead his own case in court has a fool for a client, and the same may be said of the man who tries to doctor himself or his family with stuff the composition of which no one but the fellows that mix it know anything, and which usually depends on alcohol for its effects, and does more harm than good. Never spend money for the so-called patent medicines, but get a prescription from a doctor when sick.

Potash Seldom Needed on Red Clay Lands

FROM Piedmont Virginia: "I have on hand 1,000 pounds of muriate of potash and 1,000 pounds of sulphate of potash, and I would like to know where it will pay best to use them."

I have farmed in your red hills and I know by experience there that for general farm crops you never need to buy potash if you keep the soil well stocked with vegetable decay and lime it once in five years. At present prices for potash, if I were in your section I would prefer to sell that ton of potash and invest the money in acid phosphate. At the price it now commands I do not think that on your soil, which has an inexhaustible store of potash, insoluble it is true, but made available as fast as plants need it by proper farming, it will pay to use it unless you may be growing shipping tobacco, and on this it might pay to use the sulphate. But I hear that the powder makers are paying \$150 a ton for the sulphate, and I cannot think that farmers can afford to use it at that price.

Plant Sweet Potato Cuttings

WILL you please tell me if cuttings of the vines will make good sweet potatoes, and will the cuttings injure the plants from which the cuttings are taken. Some say that it will and some that it will not.

Yes, you can make good potatoes from the cuttings and potatoes that will keep better in winter than those grown from the early plants, and if the cuttings are planted late enough they will make small potatoes of the best size for bedding in spring. In your section you can plant cuttings in July or August. Cutting a few from a plant will do no damage to the plant, and with a patch of any size it is easy to find all the cuttings needed without cutting any plant too much.

Velvet Beans in Tobacco

FROM South Carolina: "I have a piece of sandy land planted in tobacco, and am thinking of planting velvet beans in alternate rows in the tobacco. How will this do?"

If you plant them at all early you will probably have a job to find the tobacco, for the velvet beans will run all over it. Better use a bush variety of cowpeas planted after the tobacco is laid by, and when you gather the leaves you will have a field of peas and stalks to turn under.

TWELVE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

1. Be sure to put the stubble lands to work again growing peas, beans, or some other feed crop.
2. Arrange to build a silo if you regularly keep a dozen or more cattle.
3. Be sure to see that ample crops to fill the silo are planted.
4. Watch the health of your hogs, and if you suspect cholera get in touch with your local demonstration agent at once.
5. Look to the farm machinery that will not be used again until next winter or spring, and see that it is put away in proper shape.
6. Keep the garden going by planting late corn, beans and tomatoes, and cabbage, collard and cauliflower seed for winter plants.
7. Watch your cultivators and see that they are not running too deep.
8. Use the mower in the pastures to keep down weeds.
9. Plant peas in all corn at the last working.
10. Don't forget a liberal planting of late watermelons.
11. Watch all places where mosquitoes might breed and keep them either drained or oiled.
12. Get in touch with your agricultural college and demonstration forces and arrange for a farmers' institute or farmers' short course in your neighborhood this summer.

set, but sowing the seed now would make them very late. The plants can usually be bought from those who grow vegetable plants for sale.

Green Curled Scotch kale planted in hills like cabbage and thinned to one plant in a hill will make immense heads, and when touched by frost are very fine,—better in my opinion than collards. The plants will keep growing most of the winter as fast as the leaves are pulled.

If you sow this fall the Dwarf Essex rape for hogs try some for greens on your table while young. I have been eating the spring-sown rape and find it makes an excellent dish of greens.

If you want pumpkins stick some seed in the corn field and get all you need. Late Irish potatoes can be planted the last of the month and up to the middle of July. Plant in deep furrows, cover lightly till they start and then work the soil to them till level, and cultivate shallow and level and do not hill as we do early potatoes, but maintain a dust mulch to retain the moisture. Late tomato plants from seed sown in the open ground should now be set to succeed the early plants. As I write this my early plants are blooming and setting fruit, while the late ones are about four or five inches high, and I have just transplanted them a few inches apart to get strong for the final setting in June. My early ones are Earliana, Bonny Best and John Baer. I am making this season the final test of

handle and set in another bed, after nipping the tap roots. Set them in rows six inches apart and two inches in the rows, and if the tops grow large before setting time shear them some. For the final setting and growing I will write in full early in August, for if I did it now there would be dozens asking me to write it over again, as they had mislaid the paper.

There will be no difficulty in growing chufas in your section. Plant them in rows two feet apart and cultivate clean.

Growing Onions

FROM Alabama: "I have a piece of land planted in onions. When the onions are off can I plant this in peas, and would the peas come off in time to plant a second crop of onions to make a winter crop? How many bushels of onions can I expect from soil that will make 25 bushels of corn an acre? Is there anything better than onions to plant after the peas? What do you know about the following medicines,—En-Ar-Co oil, Vega Cal and Vitalitas? Would they be safe to use as family medicines? I have a piece of land in oats, and when the oats come off I want to plant cucumbers. If there is no demand for them fresh could I pickle them and find a market in Birmingham?"

You can sow peas after the onions and turn them under in September, and then apply 1,000 pounds of high-grade fertilizer an acre and can plant onion sets to make green onions in