

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

The Autumn Garden

BEFORE the end of August make a sowing of spinach in rows well fertilized to use in the fall. Then the middle of September sow spinach broadcast to make plants to winter over for late winter and spring cutting. The variety used is the Norfolk Savoy, which has smooth seed. Some sow the prickly leaved spinach in February for spring use, but I have found that the wintered-over crop is sufficient and does not run to seed any quicker than the spring-sowed.

The last of August or early September sow seed of the Big Boston lettuce for setting in the frames for early winter heading. I use glass sashes on frames six feet wide, three sashes on a portable frame, which I can move after one crop is cut to a fresh soil and thus avoid replanting the same land.

About the 20th of September is the best time to sow seed of the Early Wakefield cabbage to make plants for setting in open furrows in November. For family use the Charleston Wakefield is best, as it is larger, but a little later in heading. Cauliflower seed can be sowed at the same time, using the Snowball variety. These are not so hardy as the cabbage, and are better set thickly in a frame and protected with cloth in cold nights. Then set them in the garden in late February and they will head before the weather gets too hot. Cauliflowers and cabbage need the heaviest sort of manuring and fertilization. Their chief needs are for nitrogen and phosphorus, and potash is of little importance to them.

Strawberry plants can be set at any time from October to December, the best time being usually during November, for the dry weather is then apt to be past and the plants live better than if set earlier. Plants set in November will make a fairly good crop in the spring.

I sowed the seed of my large White French turnips the last of July, as they are a long season variety and need early planting. One of my correspondents wrote that as I had advised this turnip, he applied to seedsmen for it, and they ridiculed the idea and told him there was no such turnip. This shows that some seedsmen do not know everything.

The Norfolk Curled kale can be sowed the last of August for winter cutting. Sow rather thinly in rows 15 inches apart. By the middle of September I plant sets of the Pearl onion and the Yellow Potato onion, the first named for early green onions in spring and the Potato onion for ripe bulbs. This onion ripens in June and makes an abundance of sets at the root, but never makes seed. It is about the earliest ripe onion, but should be used or disposed of before winter, as it is not a good keeper. There is another onion which increases in the same way. This is the White Multiplier. It is not a large onion, but it is one of the best of keepers.

Many people fail in keeping onions in winter because they keep them in too warm a place. The best place to keep onions is to spread them out in perfectly dark outhouse, and if the weather gets very cold at night throw some sacks over them. A little freezing will not hurt them, but heat will start them to sprouting, and it takes very little heat to do this.

I have been planting sets of the Norfolk Queen onion for the earliest green onions. But a year ago the crop of this onion was an absolute failure in this country, and I have had to use the Pearl, a similar onion but not quite so early nor growing so large. The Queen will probably be imported again from France.

Late in August sow some seed of the Milan turnips. These grow very quickly and are good for fall use, but for later use I sow in early September seed of the American Purple-top or the North Carolina Prize and the Yellow Aberdeen, which is a very good turnip and keeps well without getting pithy.

In September sow seed of the Chinese Red Turnip-root radish and the Celestial. The latter is a very large white radish, and when boiled makes a dish better than turnips. The rose-colored Chinese radish can be sowed at the same time, and when the weather gets cold mulch between the rows with coarse manure and you can pull them all winter through and they will be not at all pithy. Another very large white radish is the Japanese Sakrajima. I prefer the Celestial to this one, for in some seasons the Japanese variety is apt to run to immense tops and make poor roots, while the Chinese Celestial always makes roots rather than tops.

Early Horn carrots sowed in August will make a crop, and can be left like the late beets, parsnips and salsify in the rows where they grew all winter and pulled as needed.

If you have a surplus of okra instead of letting it get hard and ripe, cut all the pods and then cut them into thin pieces and dry them in the sun. This dried okra will be fine for boiling in soups in winter.

Plant bush snap beans every two weeks till early September, and if you have a good lot of pods when frost threatens you can can them or pack them down in stone jars in strong brine for winter use. These taken out the evening before and soaked in water overnight will boil like fresh ones the next day.

Seed of the Hanson and the Wonderful lettuce sowed in September can be set in the open furrows in November between the early cabbage plants, and they will usually winter well and head in early spring and be cut out of the way of the cabbage.

Keep the garden absolutely clean of weeds in the fall if you want to have fewer cut worms in the spring, for they breed in the weeds.

W. F. MASSEY.

Orchard and Garden Work This Week and Next

PLANT a few rows of garden peas for early fall use.

Pecans may be successfully budded until the bark fails to slip.

A good fall and winter garden promotes health, enables one to save money, and lessens the number of trips to the grocer's.

To eradicate crab grass and other weeds from the lawn, prevent their going to seed by clipping the lawn constantly.

The flower garden is not complete without a collection of bulbous plants. Order bulbs for fall planting now.

There are ways to profitably utilize all surplus fruit and vegetables. See to it that none of these products go to waste on your farm.

The strawberry patch should receive constant attention at this season. Give frequent shallow cultivation, pull out all weeds and grass that the cultivator will not reach, and keep the runners removed.

Do not allow dead or injured branches or twigs of fruit trees to remain through summer. They are likely to become infested with shot-hole borer, a troublesome insect, which will spread to healthy neighboring trees.

In localities where field crops have been destroyed by flood, farmers will do well to consider the planting of fall vegetables for market. Cabbage, onions, and celery are good crops to use for this purpose as they all do nicely on well drained bottom land.

The sight of beautiful fruit at this season should induce every one who hasn't a good orchard to start one this fall. Write the horticultural division of your state agricultural college for a list of desirable varieties suitable to your locality and for a list of reliable nurseries that sell fruit trees at reasonable prices.

The cheapest and one of the best methods of fertilizing the orchard or grape vineyard is to plant it to a winter cover crop. If possible, use for this purpose vetch or one of the clovers. Vetch may be planted with satisfactory results from now until the middle of October; bur clover, from now until the first of October; crimson clover, from the early part of September to the latter part of October. Get ready at once to give your orchard this treatment.

What is more refreshing than a glass of unfermented grape juice? This delightful drink is easily made and should be on the pantry shelf of every farm home. Following are directions for making: Use grapes that are fully ripe and pick the berries from the stems before pressing out the juice. In case a fruit press is not available, the juice will separate readily if the grapes, with a little water, are heated sufficiently to loosen the hulls and then squeezed in a bag made of cheese cloth. Heat the juice nearly to boiling temperature (200 degrees Fahrenheit), strain through a fine cheese cloth, and pour immediately into bottles or fruit jars that have been allowed to stand for some time in boiling water. Cork bottles at once (seal, if jars are used) with clean, tightly fitting stoppers that have been previously scalded, pushing the corks a little below the top of the bottle. Seal with wax or paraffine. The juice may be sweetened according to taste. F. J. CRIDER, Associate Horticulturist, Clemson College S. C.

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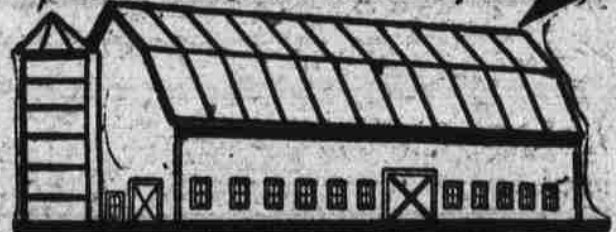
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