

## Story of the Georgia Collard.

How a Georgia Farmer Got \$300 From Two Acres of This "Cabbage Without a Head"—Full Instructions for Successfully Growing This Vegetable.

Messrs. Editors: The old Georgia collard is still the stand-by on the majority of Southern farms, both for man and beast. During the fall and winter months it furnishes the housewife with that excellent vegetable to boil, and the cows, pigs and chickens all appreciate it. Even in the city and towns of the South it is quite astonishing the demand there is for this vegetable, and the market gardeners around Atlanta find it necessary to devote a constantly increasing acreage to this crop. In fact, the Georgia collard has come to be one of the most profitable crops they grow.

The writer has received recently quite a number of letters from farmers and gardeners asking advice about growing this crop. It seems that last year the seasons were very peculiar, and for some reason it was more difficult to obtain a stand than usual until very late in the season, and this seems to have been the main reason for the poor crop that was made generally.

### Objections to Planting Between Other Vegetables.

My own experience last season was of a like nature, and only the collards which I succeeded in getting started in June and the early part of July amounted to anything to speak of. Ordinarily, I prefer to plant my collards from the middle of July to the middle of August, as planted at this time they are brighter and less affected by worms than when planted in early spring. I have also tried planting them between the rows of other vegetables, but this I have abandoned, as the land is usually in poor physical condition, and they do not grow off as well as they should. Then, too, they are more likely to become choked with grass if the weather is wet and it costs so much to work them out that it materially affects the profits. In fact, I cannot recommend planting anything between rows of some other growing crop unless it be in small gardens where the land is extremely rich. As a rule, we have plenty of land to be able to devote what is necessary to each crop, and follow out a rotation that will bring more of our land up to a higher state of cultivation.

It takes rich land to grow fine collards, just as it does cabbage, although we can grow excellent collards on land that would not make a paying crop of cabbage, especially if we start early and get our land into fine physical condition.

### Fining and Fertilizing the Land.

Probably the finest crop of collards I ever grew was on a piece of three-year-old new ground. The land had been in cantaloupes the year before, followed by oats, and I may add, the stumps had been dug out so we could plow and work the land thoroughly. The oats came off in June, and then we turned the land deeply with a two-horse plow, and began fining it for collards. Every week we did something to that two acres, cutting it up with cutaway harrow, and following with drag and smoothing harrow until we had it in excellent shape. Then we laid off our rows three feet apart and applied our fertilizer in the drill, putting about 1,000 pounds per acre. This was stirred well into the soil and a low bed made over it with a scooter.

I should state that the fertilizer was high-grade and analyzed about 4 per cent ammonia, 7 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 per cent potash. This was a very simple fertilizer

which we made ourselves by combining the following:

Cottonseed meal.....1,000 lbs.  
Acid phosphate..... 800 "  
Muriate of potash.... 200 "

To make a ton.....2,000 lbs.

We would have used more potash had the land been sandy, but it was a stiff clay loam; had only been cleared a few years, and we judged already contained a considerable amount of potash. As it was, our formula seemed to fit the case, for I never saw collards grow off in finer shape.

### Plant Seed in Hill, Then Thin.

After preparing the land and applying the fertilizer we were fortunate in having a nice rain, and a rather cool spell of weather, and we embraced the opportunity to plant our seed. We dropped them by hand—eight or ten seed in a place—making a shallow hole with the heel of our shoe, in which we dropped them, about a foot and a half to two feet apart. We then covered them half an inch deep and pressed them firmly with the ball of the foot.

They were up in a few days, growing off nicely, and we had an abundance of plants to supply all missing places, and gave away hundreds to our neighbors. We thinned the plants when about six inches high to one in a place, and kept them well cultivated at all times.

### And There's a Bug to Watch.

At that time I was not as familiar with his majesty the Harlequin bug as I became later, and he had thoroughly entrenched himself in our patch before we were aware of his existence. Then we started in to pick them off by hand, and we gathered them by the quart. We got some little darkies, gave them a tin can apiece, with a little water and kerosene oil, and paid them so much a quart, and a prize to the one who caught the most. In this way we cleaned them up, but it cost us at least thirty dollars to do it. The collard patch, however, was a success, bringing us in over \$300. I should add that late in October when the collards were not growing quite so well as we thought they should, we gave them a top dressing of cottonseed meal, putting about 500 pounds of the two acres. This gave them another start so that practically all of them grew large enough to retail readily for forty cents per dozen on the Atlanta market.

I have my experience with this crop, as it carries all the essential points necessary to make a success with the Georgia collard. It is a great vegetable, and one of our stand-bys, even though some of our Northern friends may smile at us, Southern gardeners, growing a cabbage that is not expected to head.

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Atlanta, Ga.



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