

## MANURING CABBAGE IN THE HILL.



O grow a good crop of cabbages, the soil must be well provided with plant food. Not only the minerals, but nitrogen also must be in full supply. Plowing in clover stubble, and still better a good stand of clover, makes a most excellent preparation for cabbages, but if they are to be set very early, the green manure should be plowed under early enough the preceding season to give a chance for the decay of the material plowed in. For late cabbages, the plowing can be done in spring. In either use, however, some additions to the soil fertility must be made.

If the clover plants furnish the nitrogen and carbon that may be needed for the thrifty growth and full development of the cabbages, we will make sure that the potash and phosphoric acid is not wanting by applications of wood ashes and bone flour. Such applications may also assist in the change whereby the unavailable nitrogen is changed into the available nitrate form.

A good way of applying these materials is suggested by James J. H. Gregory in *American Cultivator*. It has given him great satisfaction. "I first spread a two-inch layer of fine soil," he says, "on the shed floor, which I moistened well with the sprinkler, and then had two inches of flour of bone, also well sprinkled, and then finally from one to two inches of unleached wood ashes, which were also well moistened. In this order I formed a heap about three feet high. In about a fortnight this heap had heated sufficiently to dry the moisture, when it was cut down with a hoe, and all the dry lumps knocked up fine. I used a closed handful of the mixture in each cabbage hill before planting.

In all my experience in growing cabbage, for upwards of thirty years, I never saw more thrifty plants than grew over that manure. The leaves were broad and open, with that healthy green color which delights the farmer's eye, and without that naked stem connection of the leaves with the stem which characterizes feeble plants. The caustic potash of the ashes had so acted on the fine bone as to make it very more valuable as a fertilizer. Though it was not made soluble, yet it readily became so when in contact with the soil."—*Pop. Gar.*

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JOSEPH HARRIS says there is nothing equal to nitrate of soda for producing a large crop of onions. He advises 250 pounds per acre two or three weeks apart, pulverizing the surface soil continuously, which is about as important as the fertilizer. Experiments at some of the agricultural stations indicate that it is best to sow all the nitrate of soda early, at once, broadcast. One great advantage, which it possesses, is in its early and prompt action.