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DOMINION OF CANADA.

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

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CABBAGE CULTURE.

The cabbage succeeds practically everywhere in Canada where gardens can be made. From the most southerly part of the province of Ontario to Dawson City in the north, and from the most easterly to the most westerly parts, it is one of the vegetables that can be depended upon. The chief reasons for this are that it is a vegetable which does best in a comparatively cool temperature, and that it will stand considerable frost without injury.

How long the cabbage has been under cultivation is not known, but it has been from very early times. The wild plant, *Brassica oleracea*, from which the cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, collards, kale and various other forms have all sprung, is a native of the coast of England, western Europe, and the north shore of the Mediterranean, where it thrives under comparatively cool, moist conditions, which it gets during the growing season. This explains why the cultivated varieties do so well where the growing season is comparatively cool.

The knowledge that the wild plant from which the cabbage springs grows under cool, moist conditions gives the key to the successful cultivation of it. In the southern States where the summers are very hot, the cabbage is mainly a winter or spring crop, or at the time when the temperature is moderately warm. So in the warmer parts of Canada the best success with cabbage is obtained by having an early crop which will be in condition for market before the driest, hottest part of the summer, and a late crop which will mature after the hot weather is over.

To be succulent and tender, most vegetables of which the green parts are eaten must be grown rapidly, and to obtain rapid growth two of the most important requisites are water and available plant food. Without an abundant supply of moisture the plant food which may be in abundance cannot be utilized to the full extent, and an enormous amount of water passes through the cabbage plant into the air. Without an abundant supply of plant food, however, a moist soil, while better than a dry one, would not ensure a rapid development of cabbage heads. With these general considerations which are necessary to give a proper understanding of the needs of the cabbage plant, we can now discuss more intelligently the growing of the crop.