

THE CANADIAN FARMER AND MECHANIC.

TO PROMOTE THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH AND THE PEOPLE'S GOOD.

VOL. I.

KINGSTON, OCTOBER 15, 1841.

NO. 3.



The Farmer & Mechanic.

A CHAPTER ON GARDEN VEGETABLES.

No part of husbandry pays the husbandman better than that of tilling a vegetable garden. Those who are situated at a distance from a market cannot conveniently procure vegetables at all times, or if they can, it is attended with much trouble and unnecessary expense. It being well understood that a good living cannot be had without access to garden vegetables, public attention has of late been directed to the business of gardening, and much practical information has been given on the subject. As we write principally for the farming class, not one of whom should neglect the cultivation of the garden, we offer to them in this article a few hints on the kinds of vegetables which are thought to be the most profitable as well as useful for culinary purposes. We will begin with

ASPARAGUS.—*Asperge. officinalis*—is a plant of several varieties, among which are the following, viz., Gravesend, Large White Reading, Large Battersea, Large German or Giant.

Season for sowing.—Asparagus plants can be raised by sowing the seeds in autumn, from the 1st of September till the 15th of October, or at any time after the seeds are fully ripe. It may also be sown in the spring, month of April or March. This plant requires the best ground the garden affords. The seeds should be sown in drills, ten or twelve inches apart; the covering should be slight, not more than half an inch of light rich soil being required to cover them. As soon as the plants appear they require a careful hoeing, and they should ever after be kept free from all or any kind of weeds. I would recommend the sowing of the seeds in the autumn, as they produce much the strongest plants, and will admit to be transplanted when they are one year old. A bed once thus transplanted and attended, will continue to produce good buds for twenty years. For new plantations of Asparagus the ground requires to be dry, rich, and spaded twenty-four inches deep. The manure should be fine, well rotted, and buried in the trenches from eleven to fifteen inches below the surface, and the soil above thrown over it, and the manure thoroughly incorpo-

face should be levelled, and divided into beds of four feet each, having alleys of two feet between them. These beds being sowed in rows, the outside row should not be nearer than six or eight inches to the edge. About the middle of November the stalks of the Asparagus sometimes grow yellow. This is a sign they have finished their growth for the season. Then cut them close to the ground, and clear them off carefully with all other rubbish and weeds on the bed. Then dress the beds with a coat of rich manure three or four inches deep. From the 25th of March to the 12th of April another dressing should be applied as before directed, care being taken to avoid injuring the crown of the plants with the fork. The buds will generally be fit for common use the fourth year from planting. But it is a luxury which well pays for the trouble of raising.

BEANS—*Vicia fabia*.—Of the Bean there is a great variety of kinds and quality, among which the following are counted the best, viz.: the Maragan and the Lisbon are the earliest, but the White Blossom Bean boils much greener than any other crop, and is therefore better for a late sowing. The long podded Bean is a fine bearer, but the Sadwich, Windsor, Toker, & Broad Spanish kinds are preferred to any other. The Dwarf Cluster is a fine Bean, a good bearer, which never grows above twelve or fourteen inches high. They should be planted in rows about six or eight inches apart in the row. Beans should be planted early in this country to insure a crop. Some gardeners think it preferable to transplant Beans, and they assert that they will bear some days earlier than those planted in the hill. When Beans are four inches high they require a careful hoeing, but should be hoed in the morning, before the scorching rays of the sun have heated the surface of the soil. The dry hot earth should never be brought up close around the roots of any plants, particularly beans. A green bug is apt to infest the Broad Bean, but a strong decoction of tobacco, or strong salt water, will generally destroy them.

POLE OR RUNNING BEANS.—*Varieties*—Large White Lima, Sieva or Carolina, the Scarlet Runners, White Dutch Runners, Dutch Case Knife or Princess, Asparagus or Yard Long, the London Horticultural, the French Bicolour, Red Cranberry, and White Cranberry, are all choice varieties for running or Pole Beans.

BORISCOLI.—*Brassica oleracea*.—*Varieties*—Green Curled or Scotch, Dwarf Brown or German, Purple Fringed, Jerusalem or Buda Cæsarian Kale, Thousand-headed

of plants are much cultivated for table use in different parts of Europe. For the garden these several varieties may be treated precisely like winter Cabbages. Seeds should be sown about the middle of May, and the plants set in July. In this climate they require to be taken up before the hard frosts set in with severity, and placed in trenches up to the leaves, and covered over with straw or other light covering, whence the heads may be taken as required for use.

BETA VULGARIS, &c.—*Varieties*—Early Blood Turnip Rooted, Early Long Blood, Early Dark Blood, Early Turnip, Early Scarcity, Mangel Wurtzel, French Sugar, and Sir John St. Clair's, are the richest, most productive, and most highly esteemed of all the varieties of the Beets. These, if planted in the latter part of March or first of April, will be fit for use in June. Make drills twelve inches distant from each other, one, two or three inches deep—two is preferable—and drop the seeds in them two inches apart, and cover them with the earth. When they are up and strong, thin them to five or six inches apart. Let the ground be hoed deep round the plants, and kept free from weeds. It should be remembered that Beets intended for fall and winter use should not be sown until the 20th of May or 10th of June. The roots will be larger, stronger, and will keep better. Besides, they will be much more profitable. Should the first planted crop fail, plant during the first week in July—they will probably be a good yield.

In selecting ground for Beets, if possible let it be that which has been well manured the preceding year for other crops. Fresh manuring is liable to cause the Beet to run too much to stalks, leaving the roots small. The ground should be well pulverized.

If the tops are intended for vegetables, they should be gathered while young and tender. Roots which are intended for winter use should be taken up in October or early in November. The Mangel Wurtzel, Scarcity, and Yellow Turnip Beet, are chiefly cultivated for domestic animals. They are excellent feed for swine and for milch cows, and with the layer it adds much to the flavor of the milk. The Sugar Beet is probably one of the most valuable crops raised on a farm or in a garden for the use of milch cows.

CABBAGE—*Brassica oleracea*.—Of this plant there are many varieties, the following seem to be preferred. Early May, Dwarf Dutch, Early York Emperor, Wellington, Heart shaped, Large Late Drummond, Late Green Grazed, and Russian Savoy. Some sow their seeds in the fall,