

occasionally to keep them from wilting. About October 1, the vines were killed by frost. Being somewhat curious to know the result of my experiment, I at once proceeded to dig the potatoes. I found them growing in a vertical cluster attached to the base of each plant. Some of the largest were 15 inches in length and two inches in diameter. The product of one hill numbered 35. So

well pleased am I with the result, that I shall try to grow at least 100 plants next year.

From my knowledge of the climatic conditions which prevail in Western Ontario, I feel satisfied that all the sweet potatoes required by Canadians might be grown in that part of our fair domain. They seem to thrive best in a warm soil, which should be deeply cultivated and

well enriched. The vines resemble the morning glory or the English ivy, and, like these, will form roots at the axils of the leaves should they come in contact with the soil.

The Colorado potato beetle has no use for the foliage of the sweet potato plant. The absence of all insect pests in connection with its culture is of itself a source of great satisfaction.

The Culture of Cauliflower*

A. Knight, Cataraqui, Ontario

AFTER 40 years' experience in growing and handling the cauliflower, I find that it requires the closest attention from the planting of the seed until the crop is sold, to secure a good profit. With a good crop there is a good profit; a poor crop gives a large deficit.

There is a greater demand for choice cauliflowers to-day than for any other vegetable. It now requires thousands of heads to meet the demand where a few years ago hundreds would do.

THE SOIL

If properly prepared, any good soil will grow a fair crop. The land best adapted to growing a successful crop is a deep, rich loam that is thoroughly drained (underdrained if possible), so that it may be easily kept loose and mellow to retain moisture in a dry season.

The land should be made as rich as possible by repeated applications of well-rotted stable manure. Mix each application with surface soil to a depth of not more than four or five inches, so as to form a rich humus that will retain moisture even in the driest season. The fall is the proper time to prepare the soil.

GROWING THE PLANTS

One cannot be too careful in selecting the seed. The best is always the cheapest. If your seed merchant gives you good seed, stick to him. I have procured my seed from the same house for years and have always received it good and true to name. My favorite varieties are: Snowball, Erfurt and Rennie's Drouth Resister, for both early and late crop. I grow a few Autumn Giant, but find it not so sure a header, although it produces some extra fine ones.

For early crop, sow the seed early in March in a well-prepared hot bed and sow thinly. Thickly-grown plants are more liable to "damp off." To prevent this, the bed should have plenty of light and air, and not be watered too often. As soon as the plants are large

enough to handle, they should be potted in fair-sized pots or transplanted into a new bed, which should be prepared several days before needed. Great care is required in setting out the young plants to prevent any serious check to their growth. A stunted plant is liable to head up prematurely and is worthless. By potting the plants, we get a much earlier crop and surer heads, and that means dollars. The plants can be set in the field quite early, as they will stand considerable frost.

The seed for the late crop should not be sown before the middle of May, and should be sown thinly in the very best soil to get good stocky plants. These do not require transplanting before setting in the field. Late plants require watching to prevent the cabbage fly from checking their growth. Tobacco dust or hellebore, dusted on lightly while the plants are damp, is the best preventative against them. Do not set plants too small. If kept growing rapidly, as they should be, they will be ready for the field in five weeks.

Transplanting should be done on a damp, cloudy day. I find it a good plan to take up the plants the day previous to setting in the field, leaving plenty of soil on the roots, and to place them in a damp cellar. New rootlets will start. It is a great help as it prevents wilting. They are more easily handled and the growth is checked very little.

CULTIVATION IN FIELD

Before setting plants in the field, the soil should be made loose and mellow by repeated cultivation, but not worked when too wet. For the early crop, I set the plants in rows three feet apart and 20 inches between the plants in the row. For late crop, rows the same and 30 inches between plants. Before planting, give the field a good dressing of wood ashes, so that it will be well mixed in soil by frequent hoeings and cultivation, which must be kept up until the crop is grown. Weeds should be kept down after plants are too large for cultivation, by hand pulling or hoeing, as the crop needs all the moisture the soil will give it.

The green worm must be kept off. Paris green or hellebore is a sure preventive. I prefer using the latter, as many customers object to the use of Paris green. If necessary, go over the field several times. Begin in time. They are sure to ruin the crop if not effectually dealt with.

As soon as heads begin to form, great care is required in tying up, to protect them from the sun, wind and dust. Perfect heads are what we should aim to get. From them we derive the profit. The tying should be so done that it will be easy to see when the head is ready to cut. Good judgment is required. It is better to cut a little early than too late. Young, tender heads are more saleable. More are consumed if taken to market young than later. If danger from frost threatens, the leaves should be tied more closely. This will protect the heads from a certain amount of frost, say seven degrees.

When the growing season is over, all plants that show signs of heading should be pulled and placed in the root house. Removing all leaves that are not required to protect the head. Leaving the roots and soil that lift with the plant. Stand them as closely as possible and bank up the outer side. You will thus have nice, small heads for a long time after the outside heads are done.

MARKETING

When marketing, the heads must be handled with care so as to reach the consumer in a perfect condition. I use a crate holding three tiers, 12 in each. The crate is partly open, so that the buyer can examine the contents. For shipping, use large barrels. Wrap the heads with paper and pack firmly so that they cannot move.

Nothing will run away with money like an uncared for greenhouse.

During the past there has been too much jealousy among the vegetable growers. There is much to be learned by reading, and also a great deal to be gained by the growers relating to each other their experiences with the various crops.—H. E. Reid, Toronto.

*The essay on growing cauliflowers that won first prize in the competition conducted by the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.