

handled very carefully so as not to shake off the leaves. The general advice in regard to time of cutting is when one-tenth of the field is in bloom. In a normal season, two crops of hay may be taken off. Do not attempt to cut a third crop, as growth of about a foot in height should be left as a winter protection.

The foregoing particulars may indicate that alfalfa is a good deal of trouble to start, but if care is used in the first year, the subsequent years will certainly make amends for when dry seasons come and hay is scarce, the alfalfa crop certainly demonstrates its ability to stand drought. The hay commands a high price, and its high percentage of protein makes it a feed of high value among various classes of live stock. It is not advisable to pasture it as the animals are likely to eat off too far down to the crown of the roots and damage the plants. When the hay is stacked in the field it should be roofed over with some hay of tighter texture such as timothy, as the alfalfa being of an open nature is not able to shed water to best advantage.

When buying alfalfa seed be sure that it has been grown in a northern climate, otherwise you are risking failure at the very outset.

In the Vegetable Garden

Some very satisfactory results have been obtained from the growing of tomatoes in the West. There appears to be a keen demand for them both in their green state and also ripened. A good plot of tomatoes is always attractive "show item" in the garden beside the fact of their multifarious uses in the house. A large area would be devoted to the growing of tomatoes if there was more confidence of success, for there have been premature frosts. The plants in the care of those who have given them justice have repeatedly demonstrated their claim to general adoption.

At the present juncture, the most timely advice would be on the matter of cultivation, etc., as we are assuming they have been generally adopted by growers of vegetables. It is not advisable to set out the tomato plants until the danger of frost is past, the period extending from the middle of May, to the first week in June. About three feet each way is the right distance for those that are staked, and very good results have been obtained from this method. It is a good plan to mound up the soil about the plants to protect them from frosts. The above arrangement of staking will permit of cultivation both ways, that is, north and south and east and west. Keep the surface soil loose. In staking tomatoes, only one stalk should be allowed to grow, the others being pinched off as they grow up, as young shoots. In this way the single stalk is thoroughly exposed to the sun and the ripening of the fruit is thus hastened.

Among the varieties that have given a good account of themselves are, Chalk's Early Jewel, Earliana (Sunnybrook strain) and Alacrity.

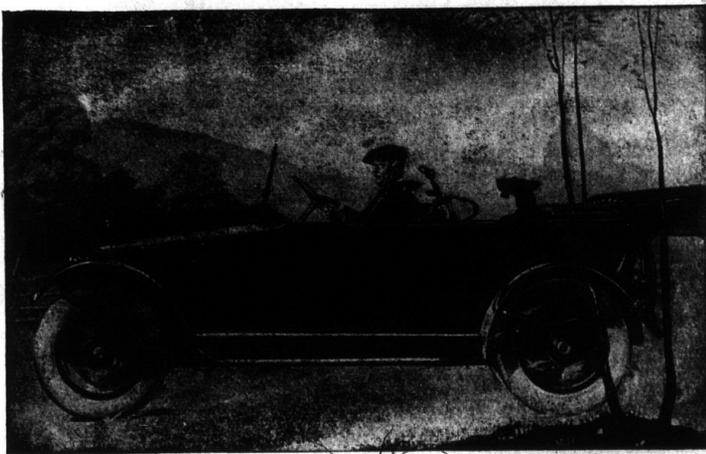
As cut-worms are often prevalent at the time when tomato plants are set out, poisoned bran in the proportion of half a pound of Paris green thoroughly mixed with fifty pounds of moistened and sweetened bran should be scattered on the soil about the plants. The cut-worms will eat this and die.

The cabbage is a successful vegetable in almost any part of the country. It requires a soil that will retain moisture but at the same time has good drainage. Thorough cultivation is an essential. The cultivation should be continued until the hoeing is practically crowded out by the fact of the leaves covering the ground. The cabbage is a very susceptible plant to good cultivation, and responds very readily to it. Among the best varieties are, Early Paris Market, Copenhagen Market, Early Jersey Wakefield, Flat Swedish.

If the Cabbage Butterfly is prevalent pyrethrum powder will prove a good insecticide for its control and the following directions should be followed:

Mix thoroughly one part by weight of the Pyrethrum Powder with four parts of cheap flour and keep in close vessel for twenty-four hours, then dust over the plants. It is advisable to watch for a second brood of them and give them the same treatment.

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