

# RURAL AND SUBURBAN

## Celery and Celery Culture

Late celery for winter use is an excellent succession crop as it may be planted any time from the first of July up to the middle of August, and so may be grown on land which has already produced a crop of peas, or early potatoes.

In my estimation the early celery brought from Florida and California is decidedly lacking in crispness and flavor, and is not at all comparable with the stalks which have felt the crisping effect of our cool fall and winter weather. Such home-grown celery may not be as perfectly blanched as the commercial article, nor indeed as well grown, but it is unapproached in flavor.

Celery likes a cool, moist soil; it will not do well in heavy soils which become sodden. On heavy soils drainage must be provided to carry away surplus moisture from heavy rains; or, if the moisture is supplied by irrigation, the soil must be allowed to dry out partially and be well cultivated between the periods of copious waterings. During the hot summer months the young plants do not make very much growth, but if properly set in rich soil (or humus) they will develop an excellent root system and will be ready to make a rapid growth as soon as the cool fall weather sets in. In setting out the rows of celery six feet or more will be ample earth available for banking up to the stalks in the fall. My own plan is to have the celery rows about eight to nine feet apart and to plant two rows of bush beans, or some other quick-growing crop, between the celery rows, as these will be out of the way before the celery needs banking.

To prepare the row for planting, I run a small one-horse plow both ways in the furrow, to get a broad trench or gutter as deep in the soil (not in the subsoil, however) as possible. Then I put in a 2-inch layer of well-rotted stable manure, poultry droppings or compost—in fact, anything that I have at hand. After putting in the fine manure, I take a hand plow and plow down a little fine earth over the manure, sometimes using the wheel hoe to mix it more thoroughly especially in the case of the commercial fertilizers. This leaves a broad, shallow trench with a bed of fine earth and manure in which to set the plants. In small gardens where the horse plow cannot be used the necessary trench should be dug out with a spade making it a foot wide and a foot deep.

If you have not grown the plants yourself and do not have them, already on hand, they may be purchased from the seedsmen or from the local florist.

Pot-grown plants are the best because it is not necessary to wait for a rain when the trenches are ready for the plants, as they can be heavily watered and set in the row at any time, but unfortunately they can seldom be bought. The young celery plants are usually grown in flats or seedbeds. When buying get a whole flat, if possible, and do not remove the plants from it until you are ready to set them in the ground, because then the plants get little or no check.

When they have been raised in a seedbed or in flats and have to be transplanted in the ordinary way, wait until late in the afternoon or for a dull day to set them in the rows. Before lifting water the bed thoroughly and dig well under the plants so as to get as many roots as possible. If they have a large single root, cut off the bottom end and shear off a portion of the tops or leaves, then with a pointed stick or trowel set carefully in a straight row eight inches apart, pressing the soil firmly about the roots and when finished give the plants a good watering.

As soon as the plants have recovered from the transplanting and started to make root again, begin cultivation, and for this I use a small garden rake, lightly stirring the surface soil about the plants every few days. This prevents weeds from starting and keeps the soil from becoming crusted or hard after waterings, and induces a rapid growth, which prevents the plants from starting prematurely to seed as sometimes occurs when the growth in any way becomes stunted or checked.

### Blanching the Stalks

I have tried many of the so-called easy ways to blanch the crop, but have settled down to the old way of banking up the stalks with soil, as it gives the most satisfactory results, and, to my thinking, the best flavor.

When the plants have made stalks eight inches or more in height (or length), it is time to begin the banking. The growth at this early stage is apt to be somewhat spreading in character. Run a hand plow two or three inches on both sides of the rows, then get down on your knees, astride the rows and gather together in one hand the stalks of the first plant, pull off the smaller ones on the outside, also any broken or diseased stalks and hold the plant closely together in an upright position. With the other hand draw up the loose earth from the sides and pack it gently around the stalks to hold them closely together in a stiff, erect position. Then advance slightly along the row and treat the next plant in the same way.

In about a week or ten days they will be ready for the next step. Run the cultivator or wheel-hoe along the row several times as closely as possible without disturbing the first banking, until there is a good supply of fine, loose soil, which can be thrown toward the row with the plow. As the plants are held erect by the first banking, the loose earth can be drawn up around the stalks with a hoe until only the leaves show above the earth. This banking must be repeated at intervals as the



HARVESTING "WEALTHY" APPLES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

plants increase in height, and only when the earth is dry enough to crumble easily under the hand or rake, for if wet, sticky soil is used for earthing, it will discolor or rot the stalks.

When banking the celery, it is important to see that the stalks in each bunch are gathered closely together and that the loose earth does not fall in between the stalks, and consequently some little hand work is required in gathering the stalks together before drawing the earth to them; but if the banking is done at frequent intervals as the plants increase in growth, they may be reduced to a minimum after the first "handing."

In October, when the plants have reached their full height, it is time for the final banking, and for this it is best to have a man or boy stand astride the row, holding in his hands two plants closely at the tops while you shovel up the loose earth, leaving only the tops of the leaves exposed. The operation is most quickly performed by three workers, one to gather and hold them, moving backward along the row, and one on each side of the row to shovel up the loose earth and pack it in place with the back of the shovel. The banking must be made as high as the stalks and from four to six inches wide at the top on each side of the row, so as to retain its place during heavy rains and to protect the stalks from the first hard frosts.

### Insects and Diseases

The only insect enemy of celery is a very large green worm with gold or white spots on his back, which feeds on the young stalks and leaves. These are few in number and can easily be dislodged with a small stick and crushed with the foot. Do not handle these worms, as they have the reputation, possibly undeserved, of being poisonous to handle, but at any rate they do emit a very offensive odor.

The chief difficulty to contend with is the so-called blight, which attacks the foliage when cool showers are succeeded by hot sunshine. Spraying frequently with a weak solution of Bordeaux mixture is a preventive, but in my own work I encourage the plants to make as strong a growth as possible, put off earthing up, or banking, until young healthy growth starts vigorously in the fall and pull off the affected leaves and stalks. Some years ago when the celery blight was exceptionally bad, I had under observation a European variety called the Arrezio, which seemed to be practically blight-proof, a quick grower and

of good quality for an early variety, but have not since seen or heard anything of it. The blight is most prevalent on, and does the most damage to, the early, self-blanching sorts.

Another drawback in growing celery is the trouble commonly known as hollow stalks. From long observation I think this is due to a checked or slow growth during the hot summer months, for if you take up a large plant of celery late in the fall and cut through the stalks just above the roots, it frequently happens that while the outer stalks are hollow and thin-walled, the centre stalks, which have grown more quickly during cool weather, are crisp and solid. My own idea is that the stalks which grow during the summer have a comparatively small amount of tissue, and when growth starts more rapidly in the fall, the cells are partly matured and cannot respond to the increased growth, and the outer walls of the stalk pull apart and leave a dry, hollow central space. To avoid this, get a well selected strain of seed when starting the plants and keep them growing as rapidly as possible from the time to finishing. Not long ago I had an opportunity to examine the growth of wild celery along the banks of a running stream and found that the stalks of plants on the banks of the stream where the soil was constantly moist, were uniformly solid; whereas those growing higher up on the bank, where the soil was drier, were hollow.

### Keeping the Celery for Winter

No attempt should be made to store the early varieties of celery such as White Plume and Golden Self-Balancing; use these directly from the row where they are grown.

Where a good supply of litter can be had, it is an excellent plan to winter all the celery in the rows where it is grown, making broad banks of earth at the sides of the rows and covering these deeply with straw or leaves from the woods when the ground freezes; and later covering the litter with corn-fodder or evergreen branches. If this is not practicable, select a well-drained lot and dig out a trench one foot deep and one foot wide. Dig the plants carefully with the roots attached and set them closely together in the trench, packing fine soil about the roots; then bank up so as to shield the plants. Cover the trench with wide boards, nailed together to form a A-shaped roof, this in turn is covered with straw or litter.

When the weather becomes settled and cold, add still further protection in the form of

straw, litter or corn-fodder, which will prevent the celery from becoming frozen and the litter can be easily removed when you want to get at the celery. Where there is a hotbed out of use in the garden this can be dug out and filled with closely packed celery as in the trench method, to be covered with the glass sash. This permits giving the celery air when the weather is warm, but there must be an ample supply of litter to bank around and cover the box or bed during very cold weather. Do not leave the storing too late in the season for if the tops are badly frozen and lie down on the banks of earth used for blanching, they will not recover, and half the attractiveness in qualities are lost.

Another point to be kept in mind is that the blanching of the stalks should be nearly completed before it is stored, as the stalks only whiten while they are growing, and if put away when of a deep green tint only the young stalks in the centre of the plant will be blanched when you come to take them out.

Celery may also be planted or stored in much the same manner in a cool cellar, using wide boards to make a box-like enclosure which will hold the stalks erect and keep the light from them, but in cellar storage never allow the roots to become dry and the stalks wilted and tough. Water may be supplied by putting a short piece of hose down between the stalks so that the water will reach the roots only and not wet the stalks. A large funnel in the upper end of the hose adds to the effectiveness of this simple apparatus.

### Growing Celery From Seed

The seed germinates rather slowly and in the open ground must be sown early in the spring (about April 1st) while the soil is still cool and moist; if the weather should be warm and the soil dry, the seedbed must be covered with a light mulch of straw or with mats and papers until the young plants appear. Straw makes the best mulch, as it lets the air through to the soil. When mats or papers are used, they should be taken off in the evening and replaced in the morning.

The light rich soil of a hotbed or coldframe which has been used for starting early garden plants makes an excellent seedbed for starting celery plants. Sow the seed thinly in rows four to six inches apart so that it may be worked or stirred at frequent intervals, and covered with one-quarter of an inch of fine light soil. Where only a limited number of plants are required, it is best to transplant

them to another bed as soon as they are large enough to handle, setting the plants two inches apart each way. This transplanting gives a dense mat of small fibrous roots and a short, stocky growth of leaves when planted in the garden or field. Commercial plants are grown without transplanting, the seedlings being thinned out to stand half an inch apart in the row, and occasionally the tops sheared to induce a stocky growth, but these plants have a large, straight tap-root and very few of the small fibrous roots, and will not give as good results when set in the row as those which have an abundance of fibrous roots which have developed by transplanting the small seedlings.

My own method is to sow the seed in shallow boxes or flats in a cool greenhouse, and as soon as the seedlings are large enough, put them singly in 2-inch pots. This permits of frequent waterings and gives thorough drainage, so that by July I have good plants with balls of fine roots which can be heavily watered and set in the row at any time, irrespective of rains or other conditions. Where only a few hundred plants are grown for a home supply, I think a trial of this plan of potting the young plants will be found most satisfactory.

## Horticultural Potpourri

**A Chinese Cherry Tree.**—Flowering in normal seasons about the end of April, and producing its fine double flowers, which are white, more or less suffused with rose, very freely in large loose heads, this Chinese tree, botanically known as *Prunus serrulata*, comes near to equalling the best varieties of *P. pseudocerasus* in point of merit as a spring-flowering tree. But it is not on this account that we value it so highly; it is rather because at all seasons it is a most striking tree. Its habit is quite unmistakable, as at a few feet from the ground it invariably sends out numerous long, stout horizontal branches, and while it may attain to 10 feet or so in height, it lacks a defined lead. It has been described as resembling in effect a Japanese dwarfed tree on a large scale; it also suggests a little man with limbs several sizes too large in proportion to his body, and, above all, an appearance of unusual strength. Small plants of this are valuable for forcing for the conservatory in spring. It is surprising that another cherry, *P. prostrata*, a native of the Levant, of low habit, and producing fine rose-colored flowers very freely, is so little grown.

**Lilium Giganteum.**—Although this titanic hardy Himalayan lily is easy to cultivate, it is so comparatively rare in gardens that its successful flowering is commonly a matter for some little pride. Attaining under favorable conditions to as much as 9 feet to 12 feet in height, the flower spikes are comparable to those of agaves. The dozen or so nodding, fragrant, tubular white flowers, streaked with purple inside, are very handsome, and the heart-shaped, glossy foliage also is attractive. The bulbs, which are composed of a few thick scales, are three or four years old when they flower, after which they die. *L. giganteum* is best suited by a sheltered position, and, in common with so many other lilies, it is advantageous to plant it among low-growing shrubs which will protect the shoots in spring. It is also well adapted for planting in borders in a cool greenhouse where it will not be disturbed. *L. cordifolium*, of which the variety *Glehnii* is the hardiest form, is closely allied to *L. giganteum*, but its flower spikes do not exceed 6 feet in height, and only five or six flowers are borne upon them.

**The Siberian Crab-Apple.**—There is no more beautiful garden tree than the Siberian crab (*Pyrus baccata*). It is shapely in habit, and every spring its branches are heavily laden with clusters of white apple-like blossoms, which are followed by cherry-like fruits of a bright crimson color, and they hang on the trees long after the leaves have fallen. Some people gather the fruits when they are ripe and make a jelly from them. The tree has a wide distribution in a wild state, as it occurs in China, Japan and the Himalayas, as well as in Siberia. It has been cultivated in Europe since 1784, and there are fine examples of it in English gardens, where it is quite at home, even in the coldest parts of the British Isles. There are several varieties of it, some with round, others with ovate fruits, and there are bright red and clear yellow fruited varieties. The tree is closely related to our English crab-apple, the parent of all garden apples; indeed, there are hybrids between the two, one of the best being a cross between the Siberian crab and Cox's Orange Pippin, in which the fruits are as large as pigeons' eggs and of good flavor, quite good enough to be used for dessert. Other kinds of pyrus which deserve recognition as spring flowering park and garden trees are *P. coronaria*, the American crab-apple, which has large pink and white flowers and green cherry-like fruits; *P. floribunda*, a Japanese species, which deserves to be as common in our gardens as the laburnum and lilac; *P. niedzwitzkiana*, an erect grower with large clusters of handsome purplish red flowers and dark crimson fruits; *P. schiederi*, a very handsome hybrid between the Siberian crab and *P. floribunda*; and *P. spectabilis*, a Chinese tree with large pink flowers.

Every morning comes the light, and a fresh chance of going better. Is it not the sheerest folly and ingratitude to let yesterday spoil the God-given today?



the wings of deliverance to and see visions. the false key to Paradise! If create, thou dost transform. he will; thou makest of one rose es; of a hut, a palace, and of a ing sun. The man who belongs e the mouth of Beatrice in the woman, and finds multiplied a nd in the nearest surroundings, cy of a first love. est: 'Ye shall be as gods,' and p thy promise.

covets money, he hears crashing agaras of gold and silver. If he fame of Dante or of Shakes- comes, bursting upon his path, usiasm of the crowd. If mar- rips him, thou soundest in cla- d floatest amid victorious ban-

sellest thy madness dear hash- en leads to hell—a very special rks a unique and dreadful pun- most unbearable of all; immense, tion, infinite disgust.

eignest, most powerful lord, to ight of the eyes, to blot out the ad over the cheeks the pallor of v the shoulders, to grip a man him a mere rag fluttering in the res still thank thee again, and cry of thy ineffable gifts! What ure to those who have felt, the ecstasies of heaven?

u art a subtle tyrant! For when austed, bit by bit, the living rt and spirit, thou breakest the illest the spirit. Nothing that ned seems longer worthy of a what use is it to live? Is the sky h as a glance? What woman is h as a kiss? A dull, mournful passive disgust beyond words. duty is wiped out forever. One is feet, as a thing to be trampled of self-respect. The conscience in the long struggle with indul- ed, like the stomach of a drunk- er feels even remorse, but aban- a hopeless, comfortless ennui, vomiting.

III. ys ago, on the avenue, the poor istory I have been telling was asser-by whom he had elbowed. like a child from a blow, turn- now and then, for fear of being no longer knows the meaning Art, Fame, Beauty. Is he a man, ly a creature that eats, drinks, licks, that keeps on going with no purpose.

an of his choice, the wife so ind, whose knees he used to kiss kisses the altar—even she is to h she were not. He no longer t in her eyes, the rose upon her of a companion so morose and has taken herself another. He cannot help knowing it—for the at all hours, finding fault with ordering the dinner, making love all.

is this does not anger him. It much as surprise him. He ac- ation as it is. Never a protest, eeps on a sofa and hears the e and laughter in the next room. eecile—he is infamous. He no he is poor. The apartment in s, the clothes he wears, the bread tobacco he smokes, are all paid her? What of it? He does not willing, or does not think about it abject? No matter.

s himself deeper and deeper in tia and enervation. And he liv- ving—until one fine evening he across a bridge, and seeing in the he reflection of the street-lamps —pale reminders of the first vi- ish—he let himself fall into the despair, because the chance of- and just as he would have con- k. On searching the body, they pocket a bit of green paste ming- e tobacco.

### MUSICAL MATTERS.

omfield Zeisler, her husband and children sailed for Europe last uebec. The summer plans of the st and her family included a trip and through the Thousand Is- was taken on the way to Que- abroad the itinerary will take in tland and Ireland, a major part England to be spent in London, Liverpool. During a tour of the ans the party will walk or ride it moves us," to quote Mme. will stop in the various cities

to the report that she will not rica next season, Mme. Zeisler at she will open her tour in Chi- Auditorium as soloist with the onic Orchestra at its inaugural lowing this concert she will ensive tour of this country.

aimed the customer who thought overcharged, "have you any sense 'm sorry," said the druggist. habit, "I have not, but I have t as good."