

HORTICULTURE

Enemies of Cabbage

The malady known as "club root" is the greatest and most serious enemy to the cultivation of cabbage as well as to the culture of cauliflower. It is not many years since gardeners thought this abnormal development of the root and consequent loss of vitality in the plant was caused by insects. But this idea is no longer held, for the trouble is caused by a low form of fungus, and insects have nothing to do with "clubbing," although they are frequently found in the diseased parts or in close proximity. The maggot is especially likely to be found working in the affected roots.

There is no cure for club root. When the plants are once affected, the only safe course to pursue is to burn or destroy them. Effectual preventive measures, may, however, be taken. The destruction after harvesting, of all refuse, as leaves and stumps, is strongly recommended and proper systems of rotations should be followed. It is not safe to plant cabbage in too close succession in the same ground. Lime is considered an excellent preventive and is used extensively in the largest cabbage-producing districts. Some gardeners grow cabbage on the same ground every other year and others almost every year, but lime is used freely. The quantity applied varies from twenty-five on light land to seventy-five bushels per acre on heavy soil.

When plants are known to be affected, all possible care should be taken not to carry soil on farm implements to parts of the farm which are free from the germs of this disease.

The green cabbage worm, which is the larva of the white butterfly, so familiar to every farmer, is the most troublesome of the insect pests attacking this crop. Various treatments are used and recommended, as Paris green, air-slaked lime, hot water, pyrethrum or Persian insect powder and several patented insect destroyers. The powder known and sold by druggists as Slug Shot is inexpensive and entirely satisfactory. Applications are made by means of a bellows or powder gun.

The well known cabbage-maggot is a serious enemy, sometimes. Serious, because if unchecked, the plants soon succumb, and if combatted, con-

siderable expense is involved. Prevention is the only practical course to pursue, and not knowing whether the pest will make its appearance or not, protection is not generally given until too late. One practical method of prevention is to place a disc of paper or cardboard about the stems of the plant. These discs should be about two inches in diameter, with a slit cut from the margin to the centre. After transplanting, the cardboard is placed about the plant, and this prevents the maggots, which are hatched from eggs deposited on or near the plant at the surface of the ground, from going down to the roots. These discs may be made by cutting them from cardboard, or building paper, either will answer the purpose, or they may be bought at a nominal price.

Another insect enemy which is very troublesome some years is the cabbage aphid. This pest may be destroyed by fresh, unadulterated pyrethrum or Persian insect powder, or by applications of kerosene emulsion, with ten parts of water. The spray must be applied thoroughly to the under side as well as to the upper side of the infested leaves.

Autumn Strawberry Planting

Fall planting will be successful if done in August or early September rather than at a later date, but of course it is somewhat dependent upon the season. Early fall planting makes it possible for the strawberries to become well rooted before cold weather sets in, so that danger from frost will be but slight.

For field culture nothing but layer plants such as are naturally produced are used, but for small home gardens many nurserymen produce what are known as pot grown plants, by sinking two and a half or three inch pots in the ground under a newly formed runner early in July, thus catching the entire make of roots in the ball of earth contained in the pot. Such plants may be transplanted to the garden in August or September without loss of vigor and develop strength enough to bear a fair crop of fruit the following June.

Pot grown plants are of course more expensive than layer grown plants and are only

adapted, on the score of economy, to beds made for home use, but where quick returns are wanted it is probably the best system to adopt.

Layer plants, however, strong enough for setting may be obtained in August and September of the same year in which they start. Ordinarily the runners will take root without artificial aid, though it is sometimes a good plan to stir the soil beneath them and peg the joints down. The runner should be pinched back so that only one plant will be formed upon it.

The best layer plants are those taken from stocks which have never borne fruit, that is from plants set the previous season, such layers are always more vigorous than those taken from older plantations. If young plants are taken from old plantations care should be exercised to select only the runners formed the previous season. These will have none but light colored roots, while older plants will have some black and dead ones mingled with the healthy ones, these should be discarded.

An important matter in handling strawberry plants is to keep the roots moist. They should never be exposed to sunshine or dry winds. If they cannot be promptly carried to the new ground and set out the roots should be covered with wet moss or a damp cloth. If it becomes necessary to plant, with no prospect of rain in sight, it is a good plan to puddle the roots by dipping them into a tub of very soft mud. This will serve to keep the air from them until they are set.

Roots that are more than three or four inches long may be cut to that length so as to facilitate planting.

Fruit Crop Prospects

The fruit crop report for June issued by the Fruit Division, Ottawa, on June 29th, is more encouraging than was expected, considering the lateness of the season.

Apple crop prospects are encouraging. The bloom was abundant, the weather favorable for pollination, and insect and fungus pests have developed thus far less than usual. Winter killing has had no perceptible effect on commercial orchards. It is not too late yet for adverse conditions to arise, but the crop has an excellent start. A medium to full crop of early fall and winter apples is reported from

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