

## The Orchard and Garden.

### SEASONABLE HINTS.

#### THE GARDEN.

Hot-beds are to be closely watched, to see that the tender plants do not suffer from too great concentration of the more vertical rays of the sun. Give plenty of air, to harden off the plants, and transfer to cold frames and the open air as fast as it is safe to remove the plants, so that the bed may be broken up and the manure used for other crops. A little negligence in giving air or shading now, neutralizes all previous care and attention.

Prepare hills in warm locations, by excavating large deep holes, and put in two shovel-fuls of fine old manure; mix and cover it with fine soil, and into this transfer your cucumber, squash, and melons started in the hot-bed on sods the last of the month. Set three plants in each hill, cover them with hand-glasses, or make a square box without top or bottom, and set these boxes around the plants, and cover with a light of window glass, and shade till the plants get established, when the glass can be lifted or removed days, to be replaced nights. These boxes are excellent, covered with thin muslin, in protecting from the striped bug, &c.

Plant peas, according to requirements, once a week during the month for succession crops. Early in the month plant Champion of England, N. Crow-fats, and other late sorts, giving them good generous soil to grow in; fertilize with well-rotted compost, or guano, using care to mix it well with the soil before sowing the seed. Put brush to them as soon as a growth of two inches is attained, as if left to fall over they seldom recover, and the earlier the brush are put up the more naturally the vines incline to them. Set them firm in the ground, and weave the tops together neatly, forming a thin even row, which will resist the effects of wind or storms when the vines have attained their growth, and cover them.

Sow seeds of all crops desirable as succession, such as radish, lettuce, &c. A quick, warm soil grows the best radishes, as unless they grow quick they are tough and woody. So lettuce needs to grow quick, and head up well, to be crisp and tender.

If the asparagus-bed has had proper care we may now have a supply. It is fit to cut when grown three inches; when larger, it is apt to be tough and stringy. Care is needed in cutting not to injure the buds, and to be sure and cut an inch or two below the surface. It is best to cut the shoots with a sickle-edged knife, for then the stumps of the shoots bleed less than if cut with a common knife with a smooth cut; although a common knife will answer if the shoot is cut with a slanting cut, and below the surface. From the hot-bed, cold-frames, and in sheltered warm beds we may now have a fair supply of lettuce, radishes, cress, and other salads, if care has been given to forwarding, &c.

Make beds in rich soil, in warm locations, and sow seeds of salads, mustard, spinach, &c., once a week to insure frequent, tender growth.

Now is a proper time to make the beds and plant artichokes; of these we have the true artichoke, produced from seed, which grows an edible head, thistle-like; and the Jerusalem artichoke, which produces, and is grown from a tuber similar to the potato; the first is one of the refinements of horticulture, recom-

mended only to the curious in such matters. The Jerusalem artichoke is grown for its tubers, which are used raw, pickled, or sliced and eaten with vinegar, similar to any salad. The culture is similar to that of the potato, but much more productive. It is always free from disease, and will grow in any soil, or almost any situation, and will endure our northern winter on dry soils; and when once planted and in the soil is apt to prove troublesome in exterminating, when desirable, as small tubers will be apt to be overlooked, and they will even send up their woolly stem and coarse harsh foliage from sprouts broken from the tubers. A field stocked with this vegetable would afford excellent feeding-ground for swine, as they are quite nutritious, and the swine would work busily in digging them.

Prepare beds in rich deep soil, and plant out horseradish sets. Take the small roots, one-fourth to one-half inch in diameter, and cut them in six-inch sets; make a hole with a dibble ten inches deep and eighteen inches apart, and drop one set in each hole, small end down, or it will form ill-shaped roots, and cover them, pressing the soil close around the whole length; planted thus, and fair culture given during summer, we may have good-sized roots for digging late in fall or early the following spring. It was formerly, and to a large extent is still, popularly supposed that to grow horseradish we must plant the crowns; but such is not necessary, as sets, as above, produce much smoother roots, and grow nearly as readily when well planted.

Sow in suitably prepared beds parsley seed; as this is to remain several years in the same spot, it should be planted in some place from whence it need not be moved, or interfere with other crops.

Sow turnip seed for early table use, using wood-ashes freely. If worms attack the root it will be better to dig up the ground and plant to other crops, as it is useless to attempt to grow turnips when worms make their appearance among them. The English white is the best variety. Early turnips are partial to an early, sandy or gravelly soil, made rich with decayed compost manure, ashes, and superphosphate. Sow in drills fourteen inches apart.

New plantings of rhubarb may be made early in the month; make the soil deep and rich: a rather moist than dry soil is preferable. Plant the roots four feet apart. A medium-sized variety is the best for family use. A variety which cooks tender and melts the most when stewing is preferable to the very large and coarse growing varieties.—Established varieties will furnish leaf stems ready for use during the month; pluck off the stems by a side-wise jerk, without injury to the plant left; do not pull too close to weaken the root unnecessarily. Keep the seed-stems cut out, not allowing any to run up.

As soon as settled weather comes, and the ground will work mellow, plant dwarf beans, for early, and once a week for succession; these being more hardy than the pole or running varieties, and easier protected from frosts, should be planted first, and early. After fear of late frosts set poles firmly in the ground, six feet high, four feet apart, and plant the beans around them six to a hill. In planting Limas, leave them till the last, as they are the most tender and difficult to start, and stick them, eyes down, three or four inches away from the pole—many fail from planting so close that the water dripping from the poles rots the seed—and cover them with half an

inch of fine soil; if the soil crusts, look to it and break it as the bean begins to germinate. Transplant those started on sods, in the hot-bed, the last of the month.

Where not already done, transplant early cabbage into well-prepared rich soil, as soon as the ground can be made ready for them. Unless the soil is impregnated with lime, it will be advisable to apply it in moderate quantities. The tendency to produce club-foot is remedied by a fair proportion of shell-lime in the soil, as we find by experience and the record of others. Seed may be sown in the open ground for medium and late crops.

Make beds in the open garden, enriched highly with hen manure or guano, and sow seeds of capsicum, peppers, cayenne; there is yet time for the ripening, from seed, the bell, squash, and sweet mountain varieties, if planted early in warm, rich soil. Transplant those started in the hot-bed, pots, &c., the latter part of the month, when late frosts are past. The pepper is a tropical plant, consequently must be treated as a tender plant in a northern climate.

Well-grown cauliflower is a refined cabbage, and can only be grown in rich, well-prepared soil, and then only when good seed is used and good culture given. The gardener who produces perfect cauliflowers may well be proud of his achievement; the excellence of a good dish of this vegetable is well worth the risk of several failures. The culture is the same as that of the cabbage. It must be grown early in the season before dry weather.

Repeat plantings of sweet corn in the open air once in two weeks, after the soil will work dry. Transplant that started in the hot-bed soon as safe from frosts. Mexican, Crosby's, New Early, and Trimble's are good newer varieties and excellent. We have tested Mexican and Trimble's, and can ask for no better either for eating or productiveness. There are two varieties of the Mexican—one a white cob, and the other red; the white is the sweetest and best.

Sow seed of celery in rich mellow soil, thoroughly pulverized and well filled with fine stable manure, as soon as the ground will work dry.

Sow seeds of the Kohlrabi—another variety of the cabbage tribe—in the open ground for the main crop. Care for, and cultivate in every way same as the cabbage.

Sow seeds of the Okra plant in drills, two feet apart for the dwarf sorts, and double that distance for the tall kinds. This is a tender plant, and the seeds should not be sown till the soil is warmed up somewhat. It is a free-growing plant of the easiest culture, and an abundant bearer in ordinary garden soil.—This plant is grown for its long pods, which, used when young, are tender and nutritious, in soups, stews, &c., for which purposes they are used.

When the ground is dry and warm, and late frosts are past, plant seeds of all kinds of melons, squash, &c., giving a good shovel-ful of well-fermented compost to each hill, after broad-casting and plowing under a good dressing. Put the seed over the manure, in the hill, first covering an inch of soil over the manure; put in seed enough to guard against the contingencies of failure to germinate, worms, bugs, &c., and plant at distances according to growth of vines, 4 to 9 feet.

Toward the close of the month transplant into the garden tomato plants, set them four to five feet apart, mixing a shovel full of fine old compost to the hill in the soil. Shade till