

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Cabbages as Grown in the London Market Gardens.

What is called the Enfield cabbage is that which is used in the market gardens about London. It is one of the oldest in cultivation, and one of the best, and as growers of it generally save their own seed, they take particular care that their plants of it are not crossed with other sorts. The sowing for the principal crop of this cabbage is generally made on St. James' Day, the 25th of July, or some time between that and the middle of August, and if the sowing be made on poor ground, so much the better, as in that case the plants come up stocky and hardy, and stand the winter well, whereas, if made on rich ground, a soft rank growth is produced, which is much more easily injured. This sowing is, as a rule, made in four feet wide beds, a width found to be convenient for weeding and hoeing amongst the plants. By the time the latter are sufficiently strong to be transplanted, the potato or onion ground is ready for the reception of a first batch of them, and on that cleared for celery, French beans or vegetable marrows, another plantation is generally made. Every empty space under fruit trees or elsewhere is also planted with cabbages. In planting, the ground is lined off into rows, twenty-five inches apart, and in these the plants are put in fifteen inches asunder. Between every two rows first planted another is now put in with less care, thus making the plants stand fifteen inches apart each way. Early in spring every alternate line of plants, and also every other plant in the line of rows left, are lifted and sold as coleworts, i. e., young open cabbages, a state in which they are preferred by many to such as are hearted. This allows the permanent crop plenty of room to come to maturity. With a view to subsequent plantations, which are made all through the winter wherever ground is vacant, the young plants in seed beds are removed and pricked out into others a little further apart, in order to keep them in good condition for planting out as long as possible. In this way, indeed, many of the plants are kept till spring, when they are transplanted to succeed those planted out in autumn, and to come in before the produce of the spring sowings, made late in February or early in March, to furnish cabbages from June to August. The plants from this sowing are put out in rows two or two and a half feet apart, and in the intervening spaces are put lines of lettuce, a plant of which is also set between every cabbage in the row. If thought necessary, another sowing is made in the end of March, or April; and sometimes a bed is sown in May, when what are called rosette coleworts are sown. As the latter are, however, chiefly grown for late autumn and winter supplies, cabbages are seldom sown after March. Moreover, when peas, French beans, and vegetable marrows are in, there is little demand for cabbages. Red cabbages are sown in March or on St. James' Day, and the plants stand about three feet asunder in the rows. As this crop stands until the heads are large and solid, a piece of rich land is devoted to it, and inter-cropped with potatoes, ordinary cabbages, lettuces, French beans, or other vegetables of that kind. The produce of the July sowing is generally considered better than that of spring.

The Fruit Crop.

At the recent meeting of horticultural societies in the West, discouraging reports as to the fruit prospects have prevailed. We have news from the May meeting of the Alton Society. The reports are summarized as follows:—Early cherries, nearly all killed; late cherries, but little injured; strawberries, all right, with prospects of an average crop; blackberries suffered from the severe winter, and about 50 per cent. of the canes are winter-killed; early apples, poor prospect; late, prospect favorable; pears are injured, but we cannot say to what extent. The members report a few scattering peach blossoms in their orchards, but not enough to make the twentieth of an average crop. Reports of other societies are of similar import, in almost all cases. In the *Chicago Times*, of the 8th, we find the following as a special telegram:—J. P. Thompson, secretary of the Michigan State Pomological Society, a gentleman who has spent some time in collecting the facts in regard to the coming fruit crop in the peach belt of Michigan, has favored the *Times* correspondent with the following facts:—Strawberries, of which there is a large area planted, will be a full crop, although late in the market, the snow having protected

them from the cold weather of the winter. Raspberries and blackberries, especially the most hardy varieties, and also those growing in the woods, will produce fairly, probably a medium crop. Cherries of the tenderest varieties varieties have had their buds badly injured, but those of Morello stock are looking well, and a half crop may be expected. Plums are badly injured, and the crop will be a failure. Grapes will certainly produce a half crop, all the vines below the snow-line being uninjured, and many of the buds above that line, especially on the Concord and Clinton, being in good condition. Apples are injured to a great extent, and only a very small crop will be gathered. The trees are looking well, however, and have not suffered material injury. Peaches will be a total failure, the buds being all killed, and many of the trees severely injured, being frozen back to the snow-line. Young trees generally will recover, and will only lose a year's growth.

Farmers' Gardens.

To those who have no experience of gardening it is a formidable undertaking to begin one; but in reality the whole matter is comparatively simple and easy. We shall suppose that we are addressing a family who cannot afford to hire a gardener, who have no experience themselves, and have only a small amount to lay out upon a garden in addition to the labor and attention of the ladies of the family.

The first thing is to select say half an acre of good ground as near the homestead as may be, and if possible adjoining the east or south end or side of the house. Let this spot, which should be dry naturally or drained artificially, be plowed and cross-plowed three or four times, and then get a rich supply of rotten manure spread evenly over it and lightly plowed in, finishing by a thorough brushing or harrowing. Let this garden-ground be well fenced, and have a gate that will shut of itself by a weight, so as to prevent cattle or sheep from getting in through forgetfulness. The walks, borders and beds can be laid out according to taste, and the work of planting and sowing may be commenced with a prospect of excellent results.

The next thing is to get a supply of fruit trees, say a half dozen each—apples, pears and cherries, half of the pears being dwarfs to bear early, and half of the cherries Morellos. A dozen each of white, red and black raspberries, and half a dozen blackberries, and half a dozen each of white, red and black currants, will make nice beds of these fine fruits; and a hundred strawberry plants (half of them Wilson's seedling) will soon multiply to any extent. The whole of these from a first-rate nursery, with packing and carriage, should not cost over \$20, and a sufficient supply of flower and garden seeds should be had, including postage, for about \$3; a spade, rake and hoe will cost, say \$2 more, making an investment of \$25, besides the land, fencing, manure and plowing—say \$50 in all, charged to the garden, which should be credited at market prices with all fruit and vegetables used by the family, the flowers being thrown into the bargain. In this way it would probably clear itself the first year, and every succeeding year yield more.

The fruit trees and bushes should be got from some nursery of a high character—other things being equal, from the nearest. The seeds can be ordered from any first class seedsman.

Such a garden as we have described would add much more than its cost to the value of the farm, as well as the pleasure and comfort of the family, and the necessary labor connected with it would not be heavy.—*N. Y. Witness*.

The Cabbage Pest and its Parasite.

It is to be presumed that everybody knows by this time that the parent of the "cabbage worm" is the rape butterfly of Europe, imported into this country about 1836 or '37, appearing first in Canada, from whence it has spread over the greater part of the United States. At first it appeared to have no natural enemy to keep it in check, but in good time, and in some unaccountable manner, the little parasitic fly which had long been known to attack it abroad, was discovered in this country, and has ever since been thinning the ranks of this previously formidable cabbage pest. The two insects appeared in the suburbs of New York City at about the same time, and their operations ran somewhat as follows:—The first season the cabbage worms were few, only an occasional one seen; the next year very abundant, taking or nearly destroying the entire crop. In the autumn of this second season nearly every chrysalid, or at least the larger

part examined, contained the pupa of the little parasitic fly referred to above, instead of an immature butterfly; the result, as might be inferred, was very few cabbage worms the third season, and scarcely any since. This seems to have been about the general results in each locality visited by this species of cabbage butterfly, and all applications of poisons to the worms have done little good in lessening the number.

Of course if the parasite does not appear in any particular locality, they can be readily procured and forwarded to any distance and let loose where they would do most good in attacking their natural enemy or food, as they can only exist where there are cabbage worms. I think if cabbage growers will examine the chrysalid of the last season's brood of worms, which must at this time be abundant on the sides of outbuildings, fences, and even stems of shrubs and trees, they can readily determine whether the little parasite (*Pteromalus puparum*) has made its appearance or not. If in breaking open the chrysalids they are found full of minute egg-like pupa, then it is certain that the enemy of the worms and friend of the farmer has arrived; but if nothing but the immature, half-formed butterfly is within, then it is safe to conclude that you may have to wait for deliverance from this pest another year.

Much can be done towards lessening the number of worms by gathering and destroying the chrysalids found attached to fences and buildings about the place in winter. But I would not advise destroying those if the pupa if parasites are found in any considerable number. The difficulty is killing the worms when upon the cabbages is, that any poisonous substance applied is likely to make them dangerous food, else very filthy. Guano, or superphosphate and lime mixed together, will destroy the worms; but who would want to eat, or feed to stock, such stuff, as more or less will remain among the leaves and inclosed in the head. I have used salt with good effect, but the worms that have penetrated into the head of the cabbage is safe from any outward applications. Under present circumstances I would say, let nature take its course, for the little parasite will soon wipe out the enemy.—*A. S. Fuller, in N. Y. Tribune*.

A Year's Grape Experience.

The *Germantown Telegraph*, under this head, discusses the botanical and entomological phases of grape culture thus:

When the entomologists announced that they had discovered the truth of the grape trouble, and that it was an insect feeding on the root, a new parry at once arose, which was quite sure that the phyloxera had very little, if anything to do with it. It was mildew and mould, and not an insect—a botanical, not an entomological study. It is not to be wondered at that these radical differences should exist. There can be no doubt in the world but that those who have studied fungoid diseases of plants, and have advocated the fungoid origin of grape disorders, have proved their point by incontestable evidence. It is equally true of the root-insect idea. Here are the insects, and there are the rotten roots in myriads as the consequence, and every child knows a vine cannot do well when half its roots are destroyed. What is the simple editor to do who has no theory to advocate, but whose business it is to direct the judgment of the reader according to all the facts in hand? He can only say that no one thing causes disease; at least there are many things which will cause disease, sometimes, perhaps, existing together, so that one depends upon the other; at other times each acting independently, and as some of our friends expressively say, on its own hook.

But independently of fungus and root-parasites, it seems clear that the little secret conditions of seasons—the exact elements of which no fellow has yet found out—have their own distinct field of labor. Look at the old varieties which have almost gone out of some good catalogues, and which many have thought "gone up," and see how well they have done this season. The antiquated Catawba which at one time stood at the head of the grape lists, and then fell to the foot, has this season almost equalled its best days, in the few old foggy gardens where an attachment to the good things of the past permitted a few plants to survive. Looking at these facts, we say at once that season has to do with success, and perhaps feel some contempt for all other suggestions.

It has been of late years pretty well understood that an old-fashioned dry time is good for the grape, and we have had it dry enough, in all conscience, this season. How was it in the past?

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