

with other growers it is necessary to have a greenhouse or hotbed. The time to sow the seed will vary in different parts of Canada, depending on the dates when spring frosts may be expected and the intensity of them. If properly and thoroughly hardened off before transplanting to the field, cabbage will stand 20° F. or more of frost, but if they are not hardened off it takes very little frost to ruin the plants. It will thus be seen that it is possible to take considerable chances with frost, and the best growers do this, often holding back some plants to replace those first put out should they be destroyed. The grower who takes the greatest risks usually has the earliest cabbage, which gives the best profits. Cabbage will begin to grow in comparatively cool weather, and by setting early they are easier to get established and soon are well forward. The time to sow the seed then will vary from late in February or early in March in some districts to early in April or later in others. In southwestern Ontario and in some places in British Columbia the plants may be started in the autumn about the middle of September and transplanted to cold frames about the middle of October, and held over winter in these frames protected by sash from sudden changes of temperature and to keep them comparatively dry and with the sides of the frames well banked with earth. Plants protected in this way will stand several degrees below zero Fahr., and will make well-seasoned plants for setting out in the early spring. This is, however, a rather risky method. It is preferable to start plants in February in a greenhouse.

In the outlying districts seeds may be sown thinly in pots or boxes in the house and the young plants kept in the light at a temperature of about 50° F., until it is warm enough to put them outside, and before doing so they should be well hardened by putting them in the light in a still cooler place.

The usual method of growing early cabbage is to sow the seeds in small boxes called flats (12 x 18 inches in size inside measurement and three inches in depth, made of three-fourth inch wood and with about five half-inch holes in the bottom for drainage) in a fairly rich loamy soil, the flats being kept in a hotbed. The seeds are sown about half an inch deep in rows about two inches apart. As soon as the young plants begin to get the first true leaves they are pricked out from one to two inches apart each way, or say one and one-half inches on the average into other flats. They are grown in these flats in the hotbeds until the young plants meet, when they are again transplanted about three inches apart each way. In these flats it is important to have a good proportion of fibre in the soil so that when they are transplanted from these flats to the field the soil will adhere to them. The flats are now put in a cold frame or a hotbed with little heat. It is important to keep the hotbeds or cold frames well ventilated from the time the seed germinates, when the weather will permit it, so as to have stocky plants which will withstand the wind when they are set out. For a week or two before planting time the sash should be left off the frames in the daytime, when weather will permit, to allow the plants to get well hardened. When in the best condition in this respect the leaves take on a purplish tinge. Some growers do not take the trouble to grow the plants as has been described, but merely sow the seed thinly in rows about three inches apart in hotbeds and transplant direct to the fields. From the seed row they transplant to cold frames first, and this method may be followed with fair success, but where there is keen competition among growers in getting early cabbage it pays to put the extra work on them.

In growing late cabbage quite a different plan is followed. The seed is usually sown thinly in rows outside about one foot apart during the latter part of May or later, and after the plants are well up they are thinned to about a quarter of an inch apart. They are transplanted from the seed rows direct to the field. Where cabbage are grown for feed for stock the seed is sometimes sown in the field, the land having been marked beforehand, and a few seeds sown at the intersecting points and the young plants later thinned to one plant. Sometimes very good results are obtained by this method, but if the field is very weedy the labour in destroying weeds and giving the cabbage plants a chance is considerable.