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NEW ABOUT POTATOES

Grow Some and Keep Down the High Prices.

TOMATOES ALSO A GOOD LINE

Beware All Danger of Frosts Should Be Passed Before Tender Crops Are Put in the Ground.

(By S. C. JOHNSTON, Vegetable Specialist, Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Some of our vegetables are very tender and should not be planted until after all danger of frost is over. It must be remembered that because the soil is ready to receive the plants it is not absolutely necessary that the grower should set the plants out. Potatoes planted out between 24th May and even the first of June will give excellent results. Tomatoes may be set out after the 6th of June and good returns expected, as some seasons a severe frost destroys many tomato plants as late as June 6th. Vine crops such as cucumber and squash may be planted after all danger of frost is over.

POTATOES. Potatoes are one crop which may be planted on land which is considered to be in a very rough condition. Possibly there is no better crop to be planted on land which has been in sod for a number of years. Medium-sized tubers of good quality should be secured and they should be cut so that there are at least two eyes in each piece or set. It is a good plan in a small garden to have the soil prepared fairly well, then cut the seed and commence planting. Furrows may be made with the hoe about six inches deep and two feet apart. The sets may be placed twelve inches apart in the bottom of the furrow and should be covered with two inches of soil. This will leave the young plant more or less in a trench. As the plants grow the soil will be gradually dragged up and the trench will be filled. It will be necessary to cultivate the soil between the rows so as to keep down weeds, and at the same time soil should be gradually drawn up to the tops in sufficient quantities so that the growing roots will not be exposed to the sunlight, which will cause them to turn green and be of inferior quality. If an early variety has been planted and a vigorous growth has resulted it is possible that some may be fit to dig in August. By removing some of the soil from around a hill with the hand one can tell whether they are fit to dig. If the potatoes are grown for winter use they do not need to be dug until quite late in the fall. The tops will die down at the first frost, but it is not absolutely necessary that they be dug immediately. They should, however, be dug before there is any severe frost.

TOMATOES. The tomato is one of the most popular vegetables either fresh or in a preserved condition. It may be grown quite easily in the backyard. The better practice with tomatoes is to purchase the plants ready for transplanting rather than attempting to grow these plants if one has not had experience in handling a hot-bed. Plants having a large root system are best, and the stock in any case should at least be the size of a lead pencil. The soil should be thoroughly prepared before planting time, possibly a crop of lettuce or radish may be taken from the same, but it is always advisable to have plenty of manure incorporated in the soil. A shallow hole may be made with the common hoe to insert the roots of the tomato plant. These roots should be thoroughly watered so that the soil will cling close to the roots when they are set out in the garden. The plant should be set fairly deep and the earth should be firmed around the roots. If the season is dry and hot, water may be poured around the plant in order to facilitate growth. These plants may be set two feet apart if they are to be trained on stakes and kept from covering a large space in the garden. These stakes should be preferably six feet long, two inches wide, and one inch thick. They may be driven into the soil a few days after the plant has been set out and the plants tied up to the stick with a piece of twine or cotton in such a manner that the tie will be directly under the leaf. As the plant develops in size in front of each leaf a slender growth called a side shoot will appear. These must be removed by pressing them out with the thumb when very small. Four or five ties will be necessary to support the plant. As a result of the staking fruits of a superior quality will ripen earlier than those grown on the ground.

CELERY. Celery may be grown in many garden soils if they have been heavily dressed with manure. For the backyard gardener it will be much better if the plants are secured ready for setting out about the 24th of May. All the plants should be set on the level from six to eight inches apart in the row and from two feet to thirty inches between the rows. It will be found necessary to water celery more than any other crop in the garden, and the soil between the rows should be stirred constantly. In the fall when the celery has reached sufficient height it will be found necessary to

IT'S NOT NECESSARY

to endure the disfigurement of pimples and blackheads. Zam-Buk will rid you of them.

Mr. Henry Holmes of Shellbrook, Sask., writes: "There is nothing can equal Zam-Buk as a skin healer. My face was literally covered with pimples and blackheads, but the persistent use of Zam-Buk has entirely rid me of them, and my skin is now quite clear and smooth."

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blanch it. Possibly the best method being to stand twelve inch boards against the rows of plants, holding them in position with stakes at each end. In from ten days to two weeks the celery plants will have grown considerably, and owing to the exclusion of the light will have become fairly well whitened, which improves the quality. The celery plants should be used as soon as possible after bleaching. Other methods of bleaching celery are the drawing of earth up around the head of the plants are about four inches above the ground. Brown paper is sometimes tied around each individual head.

Original Potato King. John Pounds, an English cobbler, was the original potato king. He cobbled shoes for sailors in Portsmouth and was grieved by the sight of the ragged boys who ran about the quays. He set himself the task of rescuing them. A hot potato was a wonderful delicacy for these youngsters. John Pounds set his bait. He offered hot potatoes to boys who would come to him and be taught to read and write. Often he was seen pursuing a boy along the wharves holding out a potato like a farmer trying to catch a colt with a feeding of oats. Usually John Pounds and the hot potatoes won. He crowded his narrow workroom with his charges. When he died it was reported of him that he had saved 500 children to useful citizenship.

Nearly all children are subject to worms, and many are born with them. Spare them suffering by using Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator, the best remedy of the kind that can be had. m.]

Death of a Pearl.

Pearls are almost the only precious gems which are subject to decay, and this happens very rarely. When disease attacks a pearl it turns color and after a time crumbles away. The most valuable pearl ever known is supposed to have become diseased. It belonged to a Russian millionaire who kept it carefully locked in a casket and refused to show it even to his most intimate friends. One day some jewel experts prevailed upon him to let them see the precious gem. When he opened the casket he was dismayed to find that the pearl had been attacked by disease and was already changing color. Soon afterward a heap of white powder was all that was left of the jewel.

Key of Tibaldo.

The "key of death" is a large key which is shown among the weapons at the arsenal at Venice. It was invented by Tibaldo, who, disappointed in love, designed this instrument for the destruction of his rival. The key is so constructed that the handle may be turned around, revealing a small spring, which being pressed a very fine needle is driven with considerable force from the other end. This needle is so very fine that the flesh closes over the wound immediately, leaving no mark, but the death of the victim is almost instantaneous.

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PHONE 31.

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Stop the Cough.—Coughing is caused by irritation in the respiratory passages and is the effort to dislodge obstructions that come from inflammation of the mucous membrane. Treatment with Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil will allay the inflammation and in consequence the cough will cease. Try it, and you will use no other preparation for a cold. m

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"When I was a growing lad, and came upon many words in my reading that I did not understand, my mother, instead of giving me the definition when I applied to her, uniformly sent me to the dictionary to learn it. In this way I gradually learned many things besides the meaning of the individual word in question—among other things, how to use a dictionary, and the great pleasure and advantage there might be in the use of the dictionary. Afterwards, when I went to the village school, my chief diversion, after lessons were learned and before they were recited, was in turning over the pages of the 'Unabridged' of those days. Now the most modern Unabridged—the NEW INTERNATIONAL—gives me a pleasure of the same sort. So far as my knowledge extends, it is at present the best of the one-volume dictionaries, and quite sufficient for all ordinary uses. Even those who possess the splendid dictionaries in several volumes will yet find it a great convenience to have this, which is so compact, so full, and so trustworthy as to leave, in most cases, little to be desired."—ALBERT S. COOK, F.R.S., LL.D., Professor of the English Language and Literature, Yale Univ., April 23, 1911.

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