

It is also desirable to risk a small sowing of cress, mustard, radish, and spinach at this season, although these sowings are less to be depended upon than those made during succeeding months.

Even now the planting of early potatoes may be commenced, provided due precaution is taken to plan only on perfectly dry land not liable to become flooded; for wherever surface water stands after heavy rains, the sets of newly-planted potatoes are sure to perish. Indeed, the only object gained by planting thus early is the lightening of duties at a more advanced and busy period of the season.

Continue the pruning and transplanting of fruit trees as previously directed, as well as ornamental trees, evergreen shrubs, thorns, and other plants suited for hedges.

The formation of beds and mode of planting, advised in last month's calendar for rhubarb and asparagus, may be successfully continued. The present is also a season suitable for the removal of the roots of sea-kale, which may be planted in beds five feet in width, with three rows in each bed, and two feet distant in the row; after which, the crowns may be covered with six inches of sea-weed, or well-rotted stable manure—the former being preferable; for both sea-kale and asparagus, being submarine plants, retain, even under garden cultivation, their predilection for salt and sea-weed.

Established beds of sea-kale may now be forced into early growth by the application of fermenting dtable manure, which will excite an immediate growth, thereby affording an abundant supply of this delicious vegetable in from twenty to thirty days from the time of covering in. For later crops, however, and especially where forcing appliances are not conveniently obtainable, it may readily be produced in high perfection, by simply covering the crowns with from nine to twelve inches of light dry soil taken from the paths of the beds on either side, and thrown over the crowns, through which the stems will stretch themselves until they reach the surface, when, by clearing away the soil, they will be found to be nicely blanched and fit for gathering.

In flower gardening, continue the planting of bulbs and other flower roots; the subdivision and increase of herbaceous flowering plants; the pruning and transplanting of roses, and other similar hard-wooded flowering plants. Make the first sowing of sweet peas for early blooming, and even now you may risk the first sowing of mignonette.

Proceed with the continued preparation of land digging or trenching for the further planting of fruit and forest trees, for very much of their after success depends upon a reasonable amount of preparation of the land in which they are permanently to stand. The planting of trees may be continued, selecting weather during which neither sharp frosts nor excessive rains unduly prevail.

The gaiety of the greenhouse in early spring may be secured by the introduction of pots of early flowering bulbs, such as crocuses, snowdrops, anemones, ranunculus, hyacinths, lily of the valley, together with early blooming heaths, epacris, and gayest of all, the Chinese primrose, in white, pink, and fringed varieties; these of themselves, if introduced in profusion, will enliven the dull months of winter and early spring, and impart to the greenhouse an attractive and progressive gaiety, increasing with the progress of the season. Vineries, when early forcing is not resorted to, require little care at this season beyond painting the vine, to destroy any remaining traces of insect life. These having been previously pruned and well brushed, paint them all over, from top to bottom of their stems, with a liquid composition of soft soap, sulphur and camphor, dissolved in spirits of wine, with the addition of some common clay; all of these may be mixed and made to the consistency of cream by the use of tobacco water, and if this be applied with a painter's brush, it will effectually destroy the spider, brown scale, and other insects destructive in a more or less degree to the fruit and foliage of the vine, the depredations of which are easily prevented by resorting to this timely precaution.

Grass lawns and shrubby beds and borders usually receive attention at this season in the way of repairing, by taking up and re-laying portions of the lawn which are unlevel, by neatly edging the margin of all beds and borders, and with equal care all gravel walks surrounding or crossing any portion of the lawn; for ornamental gardening can only be deemed worthy of the name where neatness and order are regarded as first considerations.

AUGUST.

Come, gentle Spring, ethereal mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veiled in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.—THOMSON.

Commencement of Spring—Changeable Weather—Sowing, Digging, Pruning and Planting—Onions—Spring Salading—Spinach—Curled Parsley for Edgings—Sow Cabbages, Cauliflowers, &c.—Transplant Rhubarb, Asparagus, Sea-kale, and make fresh Sowings—Early Cucumbers, Melons, Celery, Capsicums, and Tomatoes—Hasten deferred Planting of Fruit Trees—The Flower Garden—Sow Sweet Peas, Mignonette, &c.—Transplant Sweet Williams, Stocks, Daisies, Wallflowers, Primroses, Violets, &c.—Re-pot Greenhouse Plants—Fork Vine Borders—Prune in Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.

From the beginning of August we date the commencement of spring, which exhibits closely the changeable characteristics of an English February, especially from the beginning to the middle of the month. One day is warm and pleasant, with a soft, mild, and spring-like atmosphere; a second is cold and bracing, with sharp morning frosts; whilst a third is cold, wet and stormy. After which, several delightful days may succeed, rapidly exciting vegetation, and fully indicating the presence of spring, as further exemplified by the swelling buds of gooseberries and thorns, and by the re-appearance of crocuses, snowdrops, and other early spring flowering bulbs, whose return reminds us that the season is at hand for renewed exertions in sowing, digging, pruning, and planting, as often as favourable weather and a suitable condition of the soil may afford proper opportunities.

Although early autumn sown onions produce by far the largest and finest bulbs, yet a fine crop may still be obtained by sowing at once in beds four and a half feet in width, and from five to seven rows in each bed, covered with finely raked or sifted soil; although wood ashes, if conveniently obtainable, are better than either.

Onions ought to be sown considerably thicker than most other vegetable seeds, from their peculiar liability to failure.

Early peas may now be generally sown in rows from one to four feet apart, the distance being regulated by the habit of the variety; that is, whether dwarf or tall; though the strong winds of midsummer, taken in connection with the scarcity of pea-stakes, must ever ensure for the dwarfest sorts a decided preference.

Four of the best of these are early dwarf, emperor, early queen of dwarf, Lord Raglan, and late dwarf blue imperial; and three of the best of intermediate height are Fairbeard's early surprise, Woodford's green marrow, and blue Prussian; and three of the best of the very tall varieties are, the alliance, the champion of England, and the ne-plus-ultra.

Broad beans may now be generally planted in lines across the garden squares, twenty-four inches assunder; the lesser sorts, like the early mazagan, two inches; and the larger varieties, like the Windsor, four inches apart. Three of the best varieties are long-pod, green Windsor, and broad Windsor, the latter being generally esteemed the best.

A first sowing of early short-horn carrots may now be made, though some risk of the crop starting prematurely to seed always attends the early sowing of this vegetable.

Parsnips sown this month grow larger and finer than later crops. They are usually sown in beds four and a half feet wide, with four rows in each, and afterwards singled out so as to stand about seven inches apart.

Cress, mustard, radish, and lettuce, for spring salading, may continue to be sown at fortnightly intervals.

Spinach may now be sown in rows ten inches apart, and a similar distance may be allowed to such of the thinnings of last month's sowing as may now be becoming fit for transplanting.

Curled parsley—either as an edging to garden walks, or for the purpose of defining the backs of borders—may now be sown in continuous lines.

Seeds of cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli, savoy, Brussels sprouts, and curled greens, to produce early spring plants, may now be sown; and autumn-sown plants of each of these varieties, now fit for removal, may be at once transplanted.

Rhubarb, asparagus, and sea-kale may be sown, and last year's roots of each, where not already done, may yet be safely transplanted. First sowings, on a slight hot-bed, of early cucumbers and melons, celery, capsicums, and tomatoes, may now be made, at this early period of the season, to be forced into growth by the aid of artificial heat.

Apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, figs, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, and straw berries should now be planted as soon as possible; for the increasing strength of the sun's rays is daily becoming less favourable to a high degree of success.

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