

GARDENING NOTES

Seasonal Guidance

By JAMES J. O'CARROLL R.Sc.O.

CELERY.
THERE are three distinct kinds of celery, Self Blanching, Trench and Celeric.

The first and last are easier to grow. They are also the earliest and the latest kinds.

Self blanching celery is rather tender and is finished more or less after it gets a frosting. Its life can, however, be lengthened somewhat by covering with straw.

This type of celery is popular for several reasons. For one thing the heavy work of trenching is cut out. Then because there is no earthing, there is little or no slug damage and the stems are free from dirt and easier to get ready for the pot.

Self blanching celery, as the name suggests, blanches itself, but to help it to whiten better, the plants are placed rather close together in a square and the outside row is banked up with straw or the like to keep the light out from this direction.

As this is an early kind, the plants should be planted out as soon as possible now.

All celery requires an abundance of manure and water. Plant the kind of self blanching and the Celeric kind on the "Flat" in deeply dug heavily manured ground, spacing the plants at eight inches apart each way.

Celeric is a turnip rooted celery and as it is fairly hardy, will keep longer, perhaps, than the trench kinds. It would be better, perhaps, to lift and store the roots in bog mould or the like, and some time round about early December or before hard frost sets in would be time enough to do this. The leaves could be trimmed back and the roots stored like beet or white turnips.

Few Irish people know this old vegetable and I suggest that where the trench kind cannot be grown this kind ought to be tried.

The plants are put out and treated in the same manner as Self blanching celery anytime from now on, but unlike the Self blanching celery, most of the basal leaves of the Celeric are trimmed off in September to allow for good aeration and heating.

TRENCH CELERY.

There is nothing to beat the nuttiness of well grown Trench celery but it is not easy to grow.

In sluggy soils it is next to impossible to grow a clean head and it is better in such circumstances to grow the Self blanching or Celeric kinds with the aid of frequent dressings of meta and bran bait.

There are three kinds of Trench celery, white, pink and red. After blanching they all become white, but the pink and the red kinds are somewhat harder than the white; therefore, it is best to grow some of each for succession.

Single or double line trenches are employed. The former is the easiest to manage, but the latter is the most economic of labour and space in the long run.

Both trenches are made the same way except that the double line trench is made wider and more room for earthing is left between each pair of double row trenches. Three feet for the single and four to five feet for the double rows.

All trenches are taken out about ten inches deep, the single row trench is made one foot wide and the double row trench eight-inches wide.

After the soil is taken out and placed on both sides of the trenches, a good layer of manure is dug into the bottoms. Then a sprinkling of a compound fertiliser is applied at one to two ozs. per yard run of trench and a little of the good top soil put back to cover the fertiliser and make a good planting bed.

The plants are then planted with a trowel. They are spaced eight inches apart in the single trench and ten inches in the double trench. The two rows in the latter trench are spaced eight inches apart and the plants in the double rows are planted alternately.

AFTERCARE.

After planting, water thoroughly and shade for a few days from strong sun.

As soon as the plants are growing well, spray with Burgundy Mixture, i.e. 1 lb. of copper sulphate, 1 1/2 lbs. of washing soda to 10 gallons of water, and repeat this spraying once or twice at three week intervals; this to prevent attacks of celery leaf spot disease.

When the plants are big enough to handle, put a tie of thin raffia around each to draw the stalks together and keep out the earth from the heart. Do not put this tie too high or the heart will shoot out sideways under it and spoil the plant.

Now pare in some of the side soil, say, enough to cover the first tie or about three inches in depth.

This earthing must be repeated a couple of times as the plants grow and the final earthing should be such as to almost cover the celery and throw off excessive rains during the winter months.

After the first tying and before earthing, a dressing of a complete fertiliser such as John Innes or "Potato Manure" should be applied at the rate of 2 ozs. per yard run of row and watered in thoroughly.

Celery is a bog plant and it should never be allowed to dry out. As this will be the last chance of watering, see that it gets a heavy soaking before the first earthing.

In some soils celery is apt to have cracked stems. This may be due to lack of boron in the soil and a pinch of borax added to the fertilisers before applying may settle this.

Spongy stems is another thing and may be due to too much nitrogen. A little extra potash in the fertiliser would correct this.

OTHER SEASONAL WORK.

It is time now to sow Swede turnips, wallflowers, and such like. Don't forget to add a little gammexane to the seed to ward off flea-beetle attack.

Other subjects to be sown now are Canterbury Bells, Sweet William, Polyanthus, Double Daisies, Brompton Stock, Hollyhocks, Pansies, Aubrietia, Aquilegia, Scabious, Gennets, Pyrethrums, Phlox and Thyme.

All of those seeds, except, of course, the Swedes, could be sown in a rich seedbed in lines ten to twelve inches apart. They will have to be pricked out afterwards.

Other sowings include the main crop carrots, the seeds of which should also be dusted with a little gammexane powder before sowing. This will prevent the first attack of Carrot Fly but unfortunately it may taint the roots. Dieldrin is a new substance that will not taint but the smallest pack so far costs about 1s. Lindane, which proved so good last year, appears to be off the market for some reason unknown.

Brussels Sprouts can now be planted. The early plantings give the best crops, but one can plant these with safety until the middle of June. After this, it is getting late for planting. Plant them thirty inches apart each way at least. Three feet would be better; give them rich, very firm ground.

All bedding plants, including Salvias, Lobelias, Dahlias, Geraniums and Begonias can be planted now, although we could still get a night's frost that would put paid to the tender subjects.

The middle of May is the time to bark-rip apple and pear trees that will not blossom.

References To Agrarian Trouble

References were made to agrarian trouble during a sitting of the Land Commission in Limerick on Tuesday in respect of lands at Ballynahilly, Co. Limerick.

The Land Commission had acquired the 74-acre farm of the late Mrs. O'Brien and her son, John O'Brien, entered an objection to the acquisition. He was joined in the objection by John Mullins, who had come to purchase terms with John O'Brien for the purchase of the farm subject to the Court's decision on the objection.

Mr. Commissioner O'Shiel, S.C., giving the decision of the Commission, said that there had been many outbreaks of agrarian trouble in connection with this particular farm resulting in malicious injury awards which had to be paid by the ratepayers. The Court could not ignore these outrages and accordingly the objections would be overruled with costs against both objectors.

The Commission allowed the objection of James Griffin to the acquisition of 133 acres of the estate of the late James McGarry at Carrigeen, Croom.

An objection by Nicholas Curtin to the acquisition of 50 acres at Mount Collins was disallowed on the grounds of congestion in the district. Some other petitions were adjourned to future sittings.

PRINTING — When about to order printing of any kind, ask at "Limerick Leader" Office for Quotations. 'Twill pay you to do so.

AS FEUCAINTE SIAM—ANÍP

le TOMÁS Ó CONBA

ÁE DARA
Pé cuaroac, nó pianóat, a ní h-amáin go raib sé an fead- as 'na curó oibre 'sa' scoil, ac

bí féit na píúdeacta ann, agus bí sé oite an ceol, agus clise an luait-scíobad. Bí colceactar ac an úrúipéar so (an "Crao-ruide") camall noime sin. Seáro a bí ann ná leicir a scriob

vuine eicint cún an "Leaver" i ucaob na sráio-baite ba

deise i sco. Luimniúe. Domhuúe- eamúe zac aoinne gur ab é áe

Dara an ceann is veise, ní h-amáin i sco. Luimniúe, ac, b'féitir i n-éiminn an rad. Tá zac aon ruo ann a cuireann

slact is maíse an aon áit, sé sin ába úreac leatán 45 níúe

léi go mall níúin néir fé óim an raunúe, agus na dáicanna áitne tine an zac taob úi; cráinn ve zac sazas, agus ve zac aois, mór émpall na h-áite

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ODDS AND ENDS

Flotsam And Jetsam

(By "AN MANGAIRE SUGACH")

SOME dozen or so years ago I began to jot down the Irish words that were still to be heard in the every-day English speech of any part of Co. Limerick, words that were all that now remained of the language that for twenty centuries had been spoken here, and that gradually had disappeared in the first half of the nineteenth century. At the end of a year I had noted down most of these words I counted them; they numbered almost 400. In the years since then many of the words I wrote into my list would have passed out of currency, chiefly through having died with those who used them. But hundreds of them still survive and make of the English we speak a language very different in vocabulary and pronunciation from that spoken by the Sasanach across the water. Out of a silly and snobbish politeness, acquired oftentimes at a fashionable school, some people studiously avoid using those Irish words that their fathers used before them, and that their neighbours still use about them. These agents of anglicisation and uniformity, had they their way, would soon have us all speaking with suburban London accents.

NOT GALLTACHT

To-day I have decided to give examples of the Irish words I collected just a handful of years ago in what is described officially as an "English-speaking district." I think I am in agreement with the man who said recently that it is wrong to use the term Galltacht (English-speaking district) about any part of the Twenty-Six Counties. With the large number of Irish speakers now to be found in every county—thanks to the Gaelic Revival and the schools—and with the large body of Irish words that survive in English speech, the time has come to extend the term Breac Ghalltacht (area where Irish is known but not habitually spoken) to every district outside the Fíor Ghalltacht (area where Irish remains the spoken tongue). You'd be surprised at the number of people who use Irish words in English conversation, and are totally unaware of the fact that the words are Irish. I now propose to set down some of the Irish words from my collection, giving the correct Irish spelling of each word in heavy black type and, immediately afterwards, as close an approximation as I can of the pronunciation so that those unable to read Irish, or having no Irish, will be able to identify the word if it happens to be in their vocabulary. Serious students of Irish phonetics, for the sake of their blood pressure, would be well advised not to look at my aids to pronunciation.

AN TEANGA BHEO