

### Introduction.

The essential requirements of any vegetable cultivation are, good friable soil, accessible supply of fresh water, good drainage and constant attention. Under normal circumstances the success of the vegetable crop will depend largely upon the amount of attention bestowed on the young plants in the early stages of their development, prior to, and for the first few weeks after transplanting. For no crop perhaps, is this more important than it is for Cauliflowers.

Until a few years ago, Cauliflower growing on a commercial scale was confined almost entirely to the temperate regions of the World, particularly those areas with an equable and at the same time comparatively cool climate. In fact it was not until the seeds firm of Sutton & Co. put a number of special strains on the market that anything in the nature of a crop was produced in the Tropics. Even at the present time there are few areas in the Tropics where this crop is at all widely grown. There are now available five strains suitable for cultivation in the Tropics and of these, two namely, Early Market and Early Patna were grown on the College farm with considerable success.

Besides constant attention, Cauliflowers require liberal manuring and a steady supply of moisture at all times, and for this reason it is believed that organic/

organic manure, particularly farmyard manure, is of the greatest benefit to the crop, having as it does a great influence on the conservation of moisture in the soil. Normal dressings of farmyard manure are in the nature 20 loads to the acre, and if the manure used is of good quality it will form an excellent foundation for the crop. Where it is possible to irrigate the land, this question of moisture retention is not perhaps as important as it is in areas where no such facilities are available. In dry regions the crop is quite commonly grown under irrigation and in those conditions, artificials form the main bulk of the manurial ingredients. As well as a good supply of organic manure on the land it is the usual practice to apply considerable quantities of artificial manures also.

The soil in the field selected for the experiment was of a silty-sand type, easily workable with a high available Phosphate and Potash value, and a moderately high value for available organic matter. The soil type was very uniform throughout the field and under cultivation a remarkably fine tilth was produced.

It was originally intended to run two experiments, one on spacing and the other on manuring, but owing to unforeseen circumstances, the plan of the manurial experiment had to be abandoned.

The spacing experiment conformed to the usual randomised/

randomised block lay-out, and embodied four main blocks with three spacing distances in each block, and superimposed on this was a varietal comparison between Early Market and Early Patna. The varieties were planted out in double rows, the varieties being randomised for rows in each plot.

Accurate check was kept on all the produce harvested from the field, and a discussion of the expenditure and returns for this experiment will be found in a subsequent section.