

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. A spacing and fertiliser trial comparing two varieties of cabbage, Charleston Wakefield and Succession, was conducted in Trinidad in the year 1958-1959. Four spacings (12" x 12", 15" x 15", 18" x 18" and 24" x 24") and two levels of each of sulphate of ammonia and triple superphosphate were used. Sulphate of ammonia was applied at the rate of 0 and 4 cwts per acre and triple superphosphate at 0 and 2 cwts.

The experiment was extremely successful.

2. Higher yields per unit area were obtained from the closer spacings of Cabbage. Marketable yields of the closer spacings (12" x 12", 15" x 15" and 18" x 18") were significantly higher than that of the widest one (24" x 24"). No significant result was found between the three closer spacings.
3. Significant response to nitrogen was found in the marketable yields per unit area but there was no response to phosphorus.

The interaction between nitrogen and closer spacings was highly significant.

4. Yields per plant decreased with plant density and the largest cabbage heads were produced in the widest spacing.
5. Besides yields, spacing also effected percentage of marketable heads, and the time to maturity. A hundred percent of cabbage plants at the wider spacings (18" x 18" and 24" x 24") reached maturity. A small percentage of plants in the closer spacings failed to form heads at all. Early maturity occurred in the wider spacings and in the close spacings maturity was delayed.

6. No obvious difference was found in the percentage of waste (outer leaves) between all treatments of variety Succession, but in the variety Charleston Wakefield the closest spacing gave the highest percentage of such waste. Also the application of N and P produced more outer leaves than that of the other fertiliser treatments.

7. In comparing the two varieties, no statistical differences were found in marketable yields per both unit area and plant. However, Charleston Wakefield was found more superior to Succession in early maturity, tolerance to closer spacings, higher percentage of marketable heads, less percentage of waste and produced more compact and solid heads.

In general, cabbage can be grown in most parts of the world within a wide range of climates and soils. Best results are obtained in a relatively cool moist climate and on fertile sandy loam soils.

Historically it is important to many growing countries. In the U.S.A. the annual value of this crop is more than \$1 million dollars (20). In Hong Kong, where the total cultivated area is only 35,000 acres, the total annual production of cabbage is up to 15,710 tons valued at \$500,000 U.S. (21). During the main growing season (September to March), besides satisfying the local demands of 3 million people, some of the crop is exported to Malaya, Singapore and North Borneo. In Great Britain, cabbage is grown commercially for human consumption on a very large scale and it ranks as one of