

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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PRESS NOTICE

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CROSS POLLINATION OF BRASSICAS

The productive efforts of gardeners and market gardeners cannot be fully successful unless there are available sufficient supplies of seed that is true to type. With cabbages, Brussels Sprouts, cauliflowers and kale, cross pollination with other varieties is so common and attended with such disastrous results that every effort should be made to prevent it occurring in crops specially saved for seed purposes.

It is not sufficient to give special care and attention to the seed crops. The trouble often arises from old stumps left in gardens and on allotments being allowed to run to flower; it is most important that these old stumps should be destroyed before they have a chance of flowering. The danger of contamination to seed crops of Brassicas can be largely overcome if all growers of Cabbage, Savoy, Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Kohl Rabi, Kale, Swede and Turnips will co-operate in destroying the stumps before they flower. This is particularly important in the intensive seed growing area of Essex, where there is in operation a special scheme for the prevention of cross pollination.