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The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

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A word about apples: How many apple varieties have there been since the days of Adam and Eve? No one knows, but we do know that over 7,000 different apple varieties have been given names in recorded history. Is there anything to the idea that "an apple a day keeps the doc away"? I think there is. In fact, all fruits are healthy for you.

HOME GROWN tomatoes: If you're starting your own plants indoors, remember that they like uniform heat for germination. Start them at 72 degrees, and keep them moist. After they are sown in an artificial soil mix, fine ground compost, or Jiffy pellets, keep them in a cool room, around 65 degrees if possible.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "I raised some day plants from cuttings taken from the parent plants brought indoors last fall. Now the young plants have pieces of glass - like crystals on them. I can't find any insects."

Answer: Day plants or impatiens have the strange ability to absorb fertilizer salts and deposit them as tiny crystals. They also have nectaries which give off sugar like crystals. Sometimes aphids will exude a honeydew material which is sweet. Wash them off in the bathtub.

Transplant as soon as the plants are large enough to handle, water thoroughly and keep slightly shaded for a day or two. It's good to harden them off a bit in a cold frame. This year why not grow your tomatoes on a wire fence so you can pick them on both sides?

FREE Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How to Have Early Tomatoes First."

DELICIOUS IS THE WORD for Brussels. sprouts when they're harvested while young, stripped of outer leaves and boiled just a few minutes, then seasoned with butter, salt, pepper.

Cabbage Clan Can Be Started Early

Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kohlrabi are all members of the cabbage clan and all are grown in much the same way.

Cabbage is the hardest of the five; transplants able to survive even zero temperature. Broccoli, cauliflower, sprouts and kohlrabi should be planted 10 days later than cabbage and transplanted a bit later too.

Depending on how early you wish to harvest a crop, seeds of all the clan may be sown in a hot bed, cold frame or in one corner of the garden, covered by kelp, then, after seedlings have been thinned and weather moderates, transplanted to the garden row.

However, both broccoli and kohlrabi need no transplanting and can be sown as soon as soil is workable where they are to grow.

Thin the seedlings to allow 6 inches between plants for kohlrabi, eight or 10 inches for broccoli.

After the center heads of broccoli are picked, side branches produce smaller heads, thus prolonging the yield. But successive small sowings, every two or three weeks, of either vegetable, will keep them on the table until frost.

SEEDLINGS of cabbage, sprouts or cauliflower, started early and thinned to leave husky plants, can be moved to the row beginning in the North, about April 10 for cabbage, April 20 for the others.

Space transplants 15 inches apart and, if there is little

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