Whereas to possum off has a singular meaning and seemingly no imperative form (though such is a possibility), to cabbage on to does have an imperative form and is used in a number of semantic variants:

The basic meaning of to cabbage on to is that of to secure, but the context of the usage produces several semantic variants:

1. to secure, in much the same manner as the verb to latch onto occurs in other dialects. It is in this meaning that the verb occurs most frequently as an imperative. The imperative, as in "Cabbage on to that apple," produces one of two meanings: to secure in the simplest sense of the word; or to secure quickly before someone else does—the latter meaning being the most prevalent.

2. to secure, in the sense of purchasing at a bargain price; "Look at this dress I cabbaged on to last Saturday."

3. to secure, in the sense of securing something that has been discarded or that has no apparent owner: "We cabbaged on to these bottles down in Rolta's trash heap."

4. to secure, in the sense of securing tentatively with the possible intent to purchase: "Cabbage on to that skirt while I look for a blouse."

5. to secure, in the sense of securing legally, but without payment: "I cabbaged on to this dish when Aunt Belle died."

6. to secure, in the sense of illegal procurement; i.e. to steal: "Someone cabbaged on to ten of Woody's best hogs last night."

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THE FOLKLOST IN A FEED LOT COMMUNITY:
A Personal Excursion Into the Vagaries of the Role

For the city dwellers among you, I should perhaps explain that the purpose of the feed lot is to keep the cattle in a confined area while they are fattened for slaughter. I now reside in a community of approximately 40,000 that is almost surrounded by feed lots. While there have been recent experiments to change the situation, it is still true on certain warm, breezy days that in this community "you can smell your money." I still prefer the smell of good clean manure to factory smoke, and to living among wall to wall people. Being identified as a folklorist in such a community does have its drawbacks, however. Co-workers query, "You're studying what?" and curriculum planners, "You want to add a course in FOLKLORE!" said with an inflection that indicates you might have said underwater basketweaving.

The local newspaper has been the most receptive. One of the reporters discussed with me his investigation of reports of a ghost in the balcony of a theater that was about to be closed. He quoted me in the article and Pandora's box was opened. First my students seemed amazed that one of their teachers could get her name on the front page of the paper and not even be in trouble. Other teachers accused me of being the ghost. My doctor, after tossing out the titles gynecologist and urologist, wanted to know what to call an expert on ghosts.
My students' initial amazement gave way to genuine interest, however, and I began to get leads on haunted houses. One of these I passed on to my reporter friend. The result was another front page article for him, and for me—a request to help exorcise the ghost.

On the plus side is the fact that junior high students are the most excited and excitable creatures in the world on the subject of folklore, especially legends. At times, I have had to force myself to turn them off in order to get on with the business of the day. And, of course, there's my view of the mountains from my classroom window...

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I write you in the hope you can be helpful to me in searching out root doctors, folk remedy and zodiacal planting sources. I am doing a book for Berkley Psychic Power of Plants and will devote two chapters, possibly three, to the subjects mentioned.

The book will cover the mythical, mystical, magical, medicinal powers attributed to plants in earlier cultures and to the laboratory research being done today and the practice of plant remedies as "everyday cure-alls."

I've also been trying to track down a group called the Findhorn Community and should you know of it—please be good enough to pass on the information to me.

If you can offer any suggestions regarding these subjects, I will be most grateful in hearing from you.

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