

HOW TO GROW BIG SQUASHES.

SIR, I send you picture of three big squashes which grew in Goderich last year and exhibited at our fall show. This picture was taken when coming from the fair, with myself standing at the back; they weigh 388½, 355½, and 344 lbs. each. I thought it might be a suitable souvenir of the productiveness of our great province to be placed in your office where visitors could see it.

WM. WARNOCK.

Mr. Wm. Warnock of Goderich has certainly made himself famous by the marvellous sample of Rennie's Mammoth Squash, which he exhibited at the Columbian Exposition in 1893. It was the wonder of our visitors, whom we always took around to see the big squash that beat the world. California came nearly up to us but failed by a few inches of the size of our Ontario giant, which weighed 365 lbs.

We have often thought that some of our readers might be interested in monstrosities in the vegetable line and would gladly welcome the secret of Mr. Warnock's wonderful success, and since he freely sends us the following directions for growing big squashes, we willingly give them a prominent place.

"My land is made in good condition, being heavily manured every year, it is of gravelly formation with about sixteen inches of clay loam on top. A three hundred pound squash can be grown on any part of it by the following method of cultivation: For each hill I intend to plant, about the first of April I take two good wheelbarrow loads of hen manure, and mix with four barrows of good soil taken from some other part of the lot, this is mixed a second time the middle of April. The first of May I add four barrows of well-rotted manure and mix thoroughly, then about the eighteenth of May make hills and plant, dig out a space seven feet in diameter and fourteen inches deep, fill

in my compost mixing, and with it some of the best earth which was thrown out, and when finished, the hill will be about ten feet in diameter and six inches higher in the centre than the surrounding level. Then plant the seed. Hills want to be about twenty feet apart; work the ground well until the plants commence to run. When about three feet long I mulch the ground all over for twenty feet in diameter around each hill with horse manure three inches deep, and stake the vines down with sticks to keep the wind from rolling them about, so that they may root at every joint. It is of great advantage to keep the vine from fruiting as long as possible, by pruning all fruit bloom off until about the last week in July; this will give time enough to mature a three hundred pound squash by the first of October, for there must be a big vine to produce a big squash. I practice fertilizing a few of the first bloom that come, when I think the vine is strong enough to grow a good specimen, by cutting off some of the fresh false bloom, trim the corolla or flower leaf off, and rub the stamen in around the fresh fruit bloom. This is necessary when fruit bloom opens on a morning that is unfavorable for bees to do their work, and it assures the setting of the specimens just where you want them. It also gives extra vigor to the growth of fruit to be well pollenized. When the first perfect specimens have set well, say four or five inches in diameter, cut all other fruit and blossoms off, and nip the ends off the vines and all bloom that shows twice a week, so that the vine is not exhausted with the great quantity of false bloom that would naturally come. Now while the great growth of the squash is going on I use