

Lawn and Garden Hints for June

THE lateness of the season this year has kept garden crops backward.

Seeds that were put in the ground a month and more ago are in many instances barely showing through the ground. The wet weather last month may have rotted some kinds of seeds and, therefore, may necessitate reseeded. Plants started too early, that have been injured, may need replacing.

Warm weather this month will bring things on rapidly. Watch the weeds and cultivate the garden frequently. Stirring the surface soil, even if it is apparently clean, will destroy many young weeds that have started to grow in the soil.

Sometimes young vegetable plants find it difficult to break their way through the surface of the dry soil and are either delayed in appearing or killed. To prevent this condition, it is well to soften the soil by means of watering. Apply water also when needed by growing plants. Do not allow anything to suffer from drought.

Plant sweet corn, cabbage and cauliflower. For a small garden, buy plants of the two latter rather than attempt to grow them from seed.

Be sure and have a variety of crops for salads and garnishes. The best of these is lettuce. It is easy to grow except during the heat of summer, and even then, it will prove successful, if shaded and watered and grown carefully. Other crops of these classes, some of which should be in every amateur's garden, are parsley, endive, cress, chicory, mustard and corn salad.

When danger of frost is past, sow seeds of such tender plants as melons, cucumbers and squash. Sow plenty of seed and do not thin out the seedlings until the insects have a chance to do their work. Keep young plants covered with some good insecticide. The use of lime or road dust also is useful for this purpose.

Thin out the onions, beets, carrots, parsnips and others that require it. The more space that is given to these crops, the larger they will grow, but better quality is had by allowing the plants to stand fairly closely together and thereby keeping them on the small side.

WITH THE FRUITS

Cultivate the newly-set strawberry plants and nip off all blossoms that appear. Replace any plants that have died. Some radish or lettuce may be grown this month between the strawberry rows. They will be off long before the strawberries need the space.

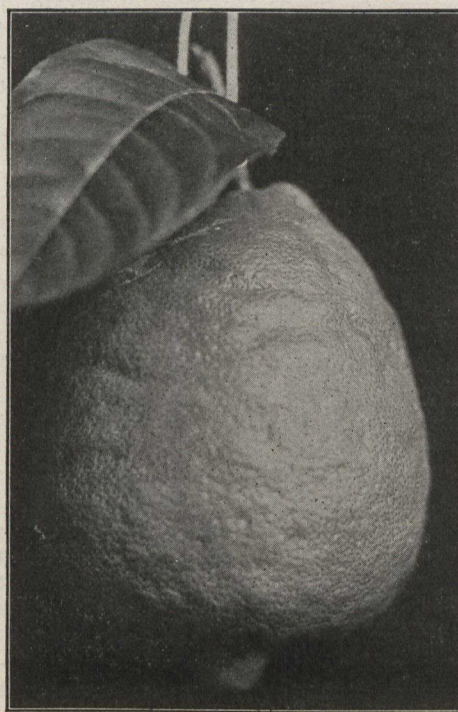
Pick the berries from the fruiting patch every day or two so that they will always be fresh and none of them will go to waste.

To have clean fruit on fruit trees they

must be sprayed. By this time, the operation should have been performed at least once, and better twice. Spray again immediately after the blossoms fall, particularly for the codling moth of the apple.

Few amateur gardeners possess a spray pump of any kind other than probably a little one for bucket attachment. Most home gardens are too small to warrant the purchasing of a large spray pump. The results of one season's spraying, however, would amply prove that it will pay three or four neighbors to get together and purchase a barrel pump jointly.

To have large fruit of the best quality



A Home-Grown Lemon

The tree on which this fruit grew is owned by Mrs. Geo. Kerslake, Lumley, Ont. The fruit weighed 1½ pounds and measured 8½ inches from base to apex and 15 inches around horizontally. The photograph was taken by Mr. Jos. Senior, Exeter, Ont.

on our trees, it is necessary to thin the fruit when young on the branches. Remove enough fruits so as to leave those on the branches about six inches apart. Do this work after what is commonly called the "June drop."

Have you any home-made devices that make gardening easier? If so, send a brief description of them for publication in THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, and thereby help others. A drawing or photograph also would be appreciated.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Plant gladiolus bulbs in full exposure to the sun. Plant two to four inches deep according to the size of the corms and two to four inches apart in double rows which may be made as close as twelve inches in beds or borders.

Have a good variety of annuals. Among the best of them are salpiglossis, eschscholtzia, scabiosa, schizanthus, mignonette, calliopsis, balsam, zinnia, poppy and many others. Among the best plants for use on the edges of borders and flower plants are sweet alyssum, candytuft and lobelia.

During hot weather, water the pansy bed twice a day—at noon and at night. The pansy is one of the plants that is not injured by watering under the hot sun. Give them water when they need it most, and that is at mid-day.

If your sweet peas were sown in trenches, commence filling in. To have large flowers, disbud and allow only a few of the buds to grow to maturity. Water sweet peas often.

Plant dahlias and cannas. Read the article on dahlias that appears on another page.

Get the window boxes ready and put them in position as soon as danger of frost is past. Hanging baskets and rustic stands also should be looked after.

Keep the perennial border well cultivated and clean. Pick off all flowers when they commence to die.

Keep the walks and drives clean. Keep the mower going on the lawn. Watch lawn weeds and use the spud frequently. Read the article about weeds in lawns on another page.

Mushrooms

When and how is the proper time and way to plant mushroom spawn? This is the way I planted it. I dug a trench about eight inches deep and in this trench put good heated horse manure and dug another trench and put the clay from that trench on the manure and kept on that way until I had about eight square feet and then I put the spawn in (which I broke in pieces about the size of a hickory nut or larger). After a day or so I watered the bed with lukewarm water but they did not grow.—H. T. M., Telfer, Ont.

I have had no experience in cultivating mushrooms in the open air. In view of the difficulty of maintaining a proper temperature and a uniformly proper degree of moisture in open air beds in this climate, I think that any success attained would be more the result of chance or luck, than of skill or management. I would advise the amateur, who wishes to take up mushroom growing, to procure some standard work on the subject, and study and follow carefully the directions given. Falconer's "Mushrooms, and How to Grow Them," is a standard work. It may be secured from THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST for \$1.00 postpaid. Mushroom growing is like rod fishing. There is enough uncertainty about it to make it fascinating, but not always profitable. — Thos. Delworth, Weston, Ont., President of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.