

Gardening on the Farm

There is a great deal of pleasure and benefit to be derived from a good garden plot on the farm. The labor of preparation is light and the return is bounteous. The boys and girls and the fathers and mothers will all enjoy the task of caring for the growing plants, and all partake of the fruits with relish. Here are the experiences of some of the men and women on the Prairies.

THE FAMILY ENJOY IT

I have been in Saskatchewan three years and have had a fine garden each year, and each year was better than the year previous. First, our garden is heavily manured each year. This makes the soil warm and it doesn't seem to dry out so quick. Plow very deep. Our carrots and salsify all went to branchy roots till we plowed ten inches deep. Since then they do fine, just one fine root with only small branches. Harrow smoothly in the early spring and as early as possible sow onions, radish, lettuce, cress, parsley, celery, beets, carrots, salsify, peas, cabbage, and cauliflower. I have raised my best cabbage and cauliflower by planting in the garden. They seem hardier and grow faster. Tomatoes must be planted early in the house or hot-bed. Transplanted in the garden about June 10. All tender plants, as vines, beans, etc., can be planted after May 15. I find a fine way to start early cucumbers and melons is to dig a hole and put in a fork full of manure; put two inches of dirt over this, plant a one-gallon butter jar and pack dirt tight around it, then carefully remove jar and plant seeds at the bottom of hole, covering lightly and cover hole with a piece of glass. This will be like a hot bed. Raise the glass on all warm days, covering at night. After June 10 remove glass altogether as there will be no further danger of frost. This saves transplanting and the plants will have a fine start as you can plant about May 1.

Pumpkins and Golden Hubbard squash and citron should be planted about May 15, and they will do fine. I have a splendid crop each year. Corn and potatoes should be planted about 1st of May and planted at least two inches deep, so as not to freeze easily. Potatoes should be cut and treated to formalin. I put mine in a sack and pour two or three quarts of prepared formalin (as for wheat) over them after putting sack in a barrel, then cover barrel and leave an hour or two. This kills all scab and I find the potatoes larger and earlier.

As soon as the second and third leaves appear on the cabbage and cauliflower transplant all you need to thin out of the row, leaving plants about 18 inches apart each way.

Carrots, beets, onions, etc., should be thinned out also. After carrots and beets are half to one inch through you can cook them and they are fine. I pickle most of my beets at about one inch, but those I want to keep for winter mush grow big to keep well.

All my garden flowers are planted in straight rows with garden drill, and I cultivate often with a hand cultivator or rake. These will keep out weeds and keep soil loose and hold moisture. If you find pea vines wilted you will often find cut worms at the root. These are easily found and destroyed. If weather is dry cultivate with cultivator or rake to keep surface loose. My children love to do this and play horse up and down the rows. Tomatoes and cabbage need this particularly. We have had corn every year, but earliest varieties only mature here.

Radish, spinach, lettuce, cress, peas and beans should be planted once in two weeks so as to have them all summer. Beans are not very successful with us, as we have what I call bean bugs. They are beautiful, blue-green, shiny, long, wasp-shaped bugs that eat all the leaves, blossoms and small bean pods. They always go in pairs and come by millions. Can someone help us here?

My flowers are always a success. I always have them in rows and cultivate like the garden. I get the northern grown seeds and I have never failed with the following sorts: Sweet peas, nasturtiums, bachelor buttons, marigolds, verbenas, pansies, sweet william,

gillardia, godetia, daisies, phlox, pinks, baby-breath perfume plant, sweet alisium, mignonette, everlasting, larkspur. I like to get the mixed or wild flower bed packet from the different companies and enjoy all the varieties. All perennials are planted in the rows of young trees, so they can grow undisturbed year after year. All flowers are planted early, but tender ones like nasturtiums, balsams, are planted out of doors, except asters, which must be planted early in the house. The candy-tuft perfume plant, all kinds of poppies and marigolds can be planted in the fall. California poppies also, for early flowers, and by planting every two weeks through the spring you have blossoms till frost. Do not plant too thick, then thin out and you will have far more and nicer blossoms. Keep soil loose on top to keep dust mulch for holding moisture. I have never had a hotbed. I suppose it would mean earlier flowers. Would be glad to have some one tell me their experience on how to make and attend one. I have a splendid row of rhubarb and asparagus started from seed. I keep all grass out and manure plentifully. Manure seems best here. There is no market here for vegetables, but we have always had all we could use and lots to give away. I am sure the flowers I have given away would be worth a small fortune in the city.

I have had ripe tomatoes two years out of the three, and the failure the third year was through my neglect of young plants. Now, our garden is only a side issue, as spring is always a busy time and garden work must be done at odd moments, and all members of the family must take their turn at it. We put the roots in boxes or barrels and cover with garden dirt. Cabbage and onions are spread out. And now, March 21, the vegetables are fresh as when put in the cellar. By keeping lime in the cellar vegetables will not rot, or if they do will dry and not spoil others. We plant sunflowers for shade for chickens and children's playhouses, and it makes fine feed in the winter for chickens, as the seed is very fattening.

MRS. S. V. HAIGHT.

Keeler, Sask.

RAISING SEEDLINGS IN HOTBEDS AND FRAMES

Now the days are lengthening, and the weather getting warmer, the majority of farmers and householders will be turning their attention to the growing of vegetables and flowers, both for pleasure and profit. It is very interesting to sow the seeds of the different kinds, watch them grow and come to perfection, and to keep one busy during hours which might otherwise be wasted. To get these things early, the best way is to prepare hotbeds to sow the seeds on, to produce plants for planting out as soon as the soil is in condition, and the weather good. To make these, get some good straw manure from the stable, put it into a good square heap about ten to twelve feet wide, six to eight feet from back to front, and three to four feet high; tread it firmly and let it settle for a few days. A frame can be used or just the open bed, but the frame is best. The frame can be made of any spare lumber lying around, the dimensions to be a little less than the bed itself, to allow it to settle firmly on the bed. The front of the frame about two feet high, and the back about three, to give a gradual slope from back to front. If storm-windows can be obtained, they will make excellent lights for placing on top of the frame, if not then cheese cloth can be placed in the same position as the lights would be, but glass is best anyway if it can be got. The seed can be sown either in soil placed flat inside the frame or in shallow boxes or pots. If no pots are available good sized jam or fruit tins can be used. If they

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