

## Orchard and Garden

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**K**EEP the cultivator going. Sweet corn may be planted now if the ground is warm. Cultivate and fertilize the asparagus bed well, and it will repay you for the work.

Cutworms will soon be active. Get them before they get the garden. A poisoned bran mash, scattered through the plants, has a quieting effect on them.

It is not wise to set out frost-tender plants before May 25th, even though the weather is warm.

Keep the potatoes well cultivated early in the season.

Set out an asparagus bed now. Plants can be purchased from any seed house or nursery. Plants are easily grown from seed, but cannot be set for a year or two from the sowing of the seed.

A good muskmelon or watermelon patch will be highly appreciated next August and September. Now is the time to get the soil in shape to sow the seed late this month. Warm, rich soil is needed.

Did your squash keep until April this year? Perhaps you tried to store them in a cool, damp cellar. It can't be done. Squash should be stored in a warm, dry place. In the furnace room of a modern house is the best place. Keep at a temperature of about 50 in a dry atmosphere.

The gladiolus is one of the most satisfactory flowers for home growing. It requires but little work and nearly always gives a good return of flowers. Good flowers sell readily.

The English Government is suggesting putting the tomato and cucumber crop under glass and growing more lettuce and cauliflower under glass, as they are said to have a higher food value.

### Good Versus Poor Seed Potatoes

**E**XPERIMENTS were begun at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in 1907, to compare seed of the same varieties of potatoes from various sources in order to learn whether potatoes were better for seed from one part of Canada than from another. The results were very striking the first year the experiment was tried, and the results each year since have shown more and more the great importance of planting seed of strong vitality and free from disease.

The yields of potatoes had been good at Ottawa up to the year 1906 from home-grown seed, but in that year and the two succeeding ones the yields were poor, owing to unfavorable weather conditions. Since 1906, Ottawa seed has shown great inferiority to that grown in some other parts of Canada. Seed from Nova Scotia yielded from two to five times as much as Ottawa seed in 1906, 1907 and 1908, and Saskatchewan seed, in the last three years, gave differences just as great. Following are some of the results obtained.

Yields of the Green Mountain potato from various sources, in 1917, grown side by side at Ottawa: Northern Ontario seed, 400 bushels per acre; New Brunswick seed, 341 bushels per acre; Ottawa seed, 85 bushels per acre.

Average yields of eleven varieties at Ottawa: Saskatchewan seed, 368 bushels per acre; Ottawa seed, 96 bushels per acre.

Seed from other parts of Canada will give just as striking differences in results as the above.

Wherever potatoes grow vigorously, as a rule, until the tops are cut down by frost in the autumn, there will good potatoes be obtained, provided they are free from disease. Such sources of seed can be found in all the provinces of Canada where the days and nights during the growing season are relatively cool, and where there is usually a good supply of moisture in the soil. There is, however, a great difference in the quality of seed stocks of the same variety in the same districts, and

it is important to learn, if possible, what kind of crop the seed came from. It has been shown by experiments at Ottawa that the best results were obtained from immature seed, where home-grown seed was as possible in mature home-grown seed has not been found as satisfactory as seed from those parts of Canada where, as a rule, the main part of the crop is immature, though of good marketable size when the plants are cut down by frost.

### Vegetables Difficult to Grow

**T**HE onion is a rather difficult vegetable to grow. It requires a long season of growth, and very often the seed is sown too late, and if the summer is cool and wet, the onions will not ripen, and will run to thick necks. The seed should be got in the ground as early as possible in the spring so that the onions will mature while the warm weather continues, thus ensuring a thorough rip-

ening and curing of the bulbs. To hasten the development of bulbs, especially in places where the season is short, young plants are set out instead of the seed being planted. Onion sets will ensure good bulbs, also where the warm season is short. Root maggots often do much harm in the onion plantation. Watering the row every four or five days with hellebore and water in the proportion of two ounces of hellebore to one gallon of water, while the insects are most troublesome will control them to a considerable extent.

Except in the warmest parts of Canada melons require considerable care to ensure the ripening of many of them. The warm season is too short. To overcome this, melons should be started in hotbeds, and kept under glass until there are warm nights in June, or even July. Melons require heat below and heat above, hence the necessity of keeping the

soil warm by having a good bed of manure. They will not succeed in cold soil, even if the air above ground is warm. Melons require a plentiful supply of moisture in the soil to give the best results. Much watering, however, should be delayed until the ground is sufficiently warmed up so that heavy watering will not cool it too much.

Brussels sprouts do not develop well in hot, dry weather, and unless the autumn is a long one without severe frost, they are not satisfactory. It is important, therefore, to plant varieties that will be most likely to develop where the season is short, and the dwarf ones have been found the most satisfactory.

A gentle pat and a kindly word will often work wonders with the cantankerous cow that has the reputation of putting her feet in the pail at milking time.



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