

HOME GARDEN
FRUIT CULTURE

THE SIMPLE LIFE

THE FARM AND
POULTRY YARD

FIVE MONTHS OF BLOOM FOR ROSES

By W. McCollom, in Garden Magazine

Among the host of roses there are a few of so rank amongst the choicest and most popular of summer flowering climbers, yet somehow the word "roses" does not conjure up these vines. Among them we get wide range of bright colors, with pleasing fragrance, together with the fact that they are roses. There is a subtle charm in that alone, and when the ease of cultivation is also considered, it is a shame that they are not more commonly esteemed.

In recent years the introduction of many hybrid climbing roses has served to direct attention to the possibilities of this class of plants for pillars, and especially verandas. Some of these newer kinds have special merit, but the older ones are by no means forgotten. We can now have climbing roses in flower continuously from June to October, inclusive.

There are three distinctly marked groups of climbing roses:

1. Multiflora, flowering in June.
2. Setigera, flowering in June.
3. Wichuriana, flowering from July to September.

The last named group has become available only since 1893, and some of its more recent hybrids promise to extend the season for climbing roses to frost. The hybridist has been very active in blending varieties of these three groups so that the lines of division are rapidly becoming less clearly marked.

Without a doubt the popular Crimson Rambler, the best known variety of this earliest flowering group, is also the best dark red flowered climber, and gave a great impetus to pillar planting for flower effect. It comes into bloom in June but it is, unfortunately, very liable to mildew.

Very like it and flowering about ten days earlier, just when the rose bugs are abundant, is Philadelphia, but it is not so liable to mildew. So you may take your choice, according to conditions. The best pink rose of this same type is Dorothy Perkins.

Pink Roamer contests the place of honor among the pink-flowered varieties, but the blossoms are small, though so very numerous that the plant in its season is a solid mass of bloom. Another drawback is that it is greatly troubled by the rose bug, which seems to attack it with especial vigor. It flowers in early June. Other good of the Rambler type are Dawson (double) and Wedding Bells (semi-double, pink with white center).

The best white rose of this type is the White Rambler (Thalia) and the best yellow is the Yellow Rambler (Agia). Both flower at almost the same time as Crimson Rambler, possibly a few days later.

Heliot is a deep rose color, single and very fragrant. The last great emblem of the rose is Wichuriana, which produces its profusion of pure white flowers in immense trusses about the middle of June.

The second group, or intermediate blooming climbing roses, or multiflora group in July, are also derivatives from our beautiful native prairie rose (Rosa setigera). The type itself is one of the most satisfactory of all plants for covering rocks, fences or walls. It is very hardy, is not particular as to soil, and as would naturally be expected of a native plant, it will thrive in situations where all other roses fail utterly.

Although these roses are easy to grow, too much care and attention cannot be given to the selection of a proper site, and to the preparation of the soil at the outset. These provided, other material factors can be afterward remedied to a certain extent. First of all stands location. If this is unfavorable all other factors count for naught. Sunshine is essential; exposure to the sun all day is not absolutely necessary, but it is better. The roses should be given protection from the prevailing summer winds of the locality, but this must be sufficiently remote to interfere in no way with a free supply of air.

Roses must have air and plenty of it. If the ground is slightly raised above the surroundings all the better; thorough drainage must be secured in some manner, to plant roses in a cold, damp soil or in a low spot where surface water settles is simply to sacrifice the plants. Under such conditions they will quickly succumb to mildew. Planting in a shady spot under the drip of trees will also result in mildew. On a cold soil (a stiff, clayey loam that retains moisture) I have found that ample drainage and consequent warming of the soil can be provided by about one foot of broken bricks, clam shells, coarse cinders, or in fact, anything of a hard nature is large enough to allow the water to filter through. This material is put in the bottom of the trench, two or three feet down, and covered with something to prevent the soil clogging up the interspaces. Sphagnum moss answers admirably, but anything of a like nature will do.

Roses revel in deep, well-enriched soil and I have yet to hear of any one getting a bad too rich for roses. Thoroughly trench the soil three feet deep and add to every two cubic yards of earth one cubic yard of manure. Cow manure is the best, but if you have yard manure will do. As the top, or surface, has most fertility, it is turned to the bottom in the trenching, which should be done at the end of the winter before planting—ten weeks is better—to give the ground an opportunity to settle before planting.

Climbing roses do not need much pruning but one cannot afford to neglect them altogether. Merely remove the dead wood and the very weak shoots and cut back on the previous year's growth far enough to get a couple of three good strong breaks, but do not let the plant carry more wood than it can support. If a plant is in good health it needs very little pruning, but if it is not growing satisfactorily, and there is no question as to its having plenty of nourishment, prune it severely. In such a case, cut back far enough to produce strong new growths in which bone is the principal ingredient. About the middle of May, start to give the plants regular weekly applications of liquid manure. Unfortunately this treatment is to be brought to the surface, which, of course, must be avoided unless one is anxious to water in dry weather. Retrenching the ground just outside the old trench lines is slower in giving results, but its effects are most lasting.

Transplanting may be done at almost any time, except during the period of actual growth (June and July) if the plants are severely pruned, for they will quickly start growth from the young eyes. Spring, however, is the best time, and the earlier the better, and even though planting under the most favorable conditions it is advisable to prune well.

A quick start counts for much in planting and it will help greatly to throw a handful of fertilizer in the ground near the roots, but not in actual contact. If growth does not start quickly, the wood hardens, and the plant must be removed.

The rose is not a natural climber; it can ramble over low shrubs, large boulders and such things, but when grown about a verandah pillar, it must be artificially supported by tying up occasionally as it grows. This is more satisfactory than ignoring it until the end of the growing season. It is then a hard job to straighten out the badly tangled or twisted shoots, and the wind is likely to break them when they are very long.

Never let one shoot grow upright for too long a period, or get very far ahead of the others. If you do, the strongest or leading shoot will receive the greatest quantity of the sap and the plant, by throwing its strength into it, will soon become nude at the base.

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The San Jose scale will attack roses, and as it is a difficult pest to overcome, and the plant itself is almost sure to be very sickly before its presence is detected, the best course is usually to dig them up at once and burn them. If, however, they are worth the trouble of saving, spray in spring and fall with some of the standard preparations of soluble oil.

Mildew is the commonest trouble of climbing roses, and the powdery gray coating on the surface of the leaves is especially disgusting. To veranda plants, if not taken in hand as soon as it is seen, the affected leaves will drop from the plant, leaving bare, unsightly stems.

A good remedy is flowers of sulphur blown on the plant with a small bellows on a good bright day, but spraying with potassium sulphide (five ounces to ten gallons of water) is better, to my mind, because if windy the sulphur blows from the foliage. Spraying with kerosene emulsion will also control the mildew. If the plant is allowed to fall over a trellis or clamber down the front of a deep bank, I do not know anything that is more pleasing than the prairie rose (Rosa setigera).

Even more free flowering is its variety tomentosa, with smaller flowers produced at the same time. From this prairie rose a number of the most popular and widely distributed climbing roses of this country have been

derived, and indeed, one of the very best white roses of a free growing habit is one section of the famous Baltimore Belle. Its companions, Seven Sisters, Bright Crimson, Queen of the Prairies and Deep Crimson are equally well known.

Ever since its introduction in 1893, the memorial rose (Rosa Wichuriana) has been most justly one of the most highly esteemed summer flowering shrubs of trailing habit. Its numerous flowers are small, about one-half inch in diameter, and the bright glossy green foliage makes it a handsome plant for trellis use, even when it is out of flower. In the matter of hardiness, there are few plants that will excel the memorial rose, and where it becomes established it will very long shoots and can easily be trained to cover the entire front of the piazza of an average suburban dwelling.

The leaves of this rose are almost evergreen, and this characteristic has been carried to some extent into its hybrids, but in the majority of cases, the hybrids do not carry their foliage all winter, but retain it until very late in December and for that reason alone merit some consideration, for they would be decorative plants even though they never flowered.

This group of climbing roses surpasses the other two in one great important quality. They do not make one burst of flower and then rest, but they continue producing their blossoms almost continuously from July until September or October, and in one or two instances (as is the case with Debutante) they will continue to flower until stopped by the frost.

As a white-flowered plant, the species itself far surpasses any of the hybrids, and it can be used for such a

multiplicity of purposes—as a ground cover, as a trailer, as a pillar rose it is unsurpassed. If a pink-flowered form is preferred, we are fortunate in having it supplied by the variety carnata. Almost immediately after the introduction of the memorial rose, many rose growers busied themselves in producing crosses between it and roses of the Rambler type, principally the Crimson Rambler itself, and as a result we are enjoying today some remarkable accessions to the list of climbing roses.

In my opinion, without any exception, the very best single-flowered rose for showering, or fall training, is the Jersey Beauty, the blossoms of which are two to three inches across, of a creamy white in color, with a very prominent mass of pale yellow stamens, and a black disc in the center.

This variety has the peculiarity of closing its flowers at night time, opening them again the following morning. For a double rose of the same type, grow Mandar's Triumph. The flowers are sweetly scented, pointed in the bud and the blooming period extends over two months, from July to September.

The Parquet is the best bright pink rose of this group. The color is wonderfully brilliant, being almost a cherry, and the flowers are produced in great clusters. Except in color, it is a counterpart of the Triumph.

The freest flowering roses of this type are Debutante and Lady Gay, both a clear, light pink; the former having double flowers an inch and a half across, the latter (though flowering more profusely) has individual

blossoms about an inch across, and counted upon to attain a height of fifteen feet.

For pale pink, large-sized flowers, take Climbing La France, in every way like the popular dwarf variety of the same name, except in its habit of growth, and that (as is the case with all climbing forms of dwarf roses) it flowers a week or ten days later.

As a good, free-flowering, yellow rose, Climbing Perle des Jardins is my favorite, although there are plenty of other roses which will give richer color, as, for instance, Reve d'Or and Cloth of Gold, typical old-fashioned roses.

In the south, the two banksia roses may be grown outdoors, but in the north they are generally available only in greenhouses. They are very free growing and produce trusses of flowers, which have a marked odor of violets, the individuals not being more than a half inch across. The foliage is shiny and of about the same size as that of the memorial rose, but of thinner texture. One variety is creamy yellow; the other, white.

Gloire de Dijon is perhaps the hardiest of the tender climbing roses and does excellently, trained on a trellis, for a comparatively short time. It is strangely subject to what is called canker and is, therefore, considered a difficult rose to grow.

The best of all the tender climbing roses, however, for delicacy of color and perfection of form in the flower, is Marechal Niel, the richest pure yellow of any flower of the family, the buds are pointed, about two to two and a half inches long, and true to its family characteristic as a noisette

gallon (65 per cent oil); and one gallon will make anywhere from nine to twenty-five of emulsion for use.

If the harlequin bug appears on melon and squash vines, make an extra strong soap mixture for him, using one and one-half pounds to a gallon of water.

The best poison for all chewing insects is arsenic. You can be sure of killing the worm if you can get him to eat a grain of Paris green, but Paris green is not an easy thing to apply, especially in water which is much the most convenient vehicle for the insecticide. In fact, you can't dissolve it. A much more practical substance is lead arsenate; it sticks on the foliage longer, but unfortunately it gives the plants the appearance of having had mildew, because lead arsenate is white. However, this objection has recently been overcome in a specially prepared form which has a green color. This costs about twenty cents a pound which is sufficient to make about ten gallons of solution except in cases when you are pestered (as you are bound to be, especially if you are on sandy soil) with that arch enemy of flowers, the rose chafer. The arsenate preparations will kill the rose chafer but they must be used at double the normal strength and they must be used frequently right on, or in the flowers.

Look out also for the currant worm, saw fly, grape berry moth, eatworm on corn, potato beetle, and the flea beetle. After the strawberry crop is gathered spray the bed for leaf blight with the Bordeaux mixture. Most amateurs balk at the use of Bordeaux mixture because it is decidedly troublesome to prepare but it can be bought almost ready for use in very convenient powder or paste forms. The paste form is perhaps the better of the two but the experiment stations say it is not so effective as the freshly made article; all the same it has a reasonably satisfactory effect and that is all the amateur wants. To make up for its lessened value use a little more of it. One pound of the paste will make fifty gallons of spraying mixture and should not cost more than a dollar. Use it wherever a fungus disease is expected also for the striped beetle on melons by adding a little arsenate of lead to it and on potatoes for the flea beetle. Somehow or other the flea beetle jumps away from Bordeaux mixture.

Ammoniated copper carbonate is a preparation very similar to Bordeaux mixture but more expensive yet it is valuable because it makes a perfect solution. It should be used in all fruits when they are half developed for the same purpose as Bordeaux mixture is recommended.

In June, the apple borer gets active and must be dug out with a wire, or inject some carbon bisulphide. If you only have a few small bushes to spray, the poison can be applied adequately by means of an ordinary whisk broom. As a general rule, the small hand sprayers are not very serviceable, but I have seen one that is made entirely of brass (and brass or copper is an essential except that for ammonia iron is used) which holds a quart and sells for two dollars. The special features of this machine are that it makes a continuous spray by means of a compressed air chamber and it has two nozzles, one making a direct jet, and by means of the other a jet can be directed either up or down, or in any direction desired. Of course, when used with heavy mixtures such as Bordeaux mixture or Paris green, the machine would have to be shaken constantly to insure the suspension and free passage of the poison.

For larger gardens, it would be much more economical to buy some machine of greater capacity and these are now to be had in various forms. Some are of the character of force pumps which can be attached to the sides of pails or tubs, but by far the best thing is one of the many forms of high-pressure spray pumps from which a continuous jet is produced. These vary in size from easily portable forms, holding only a few gallons, up to machines that require two horses to haul them, and the prices range accordingly from about five dollars up to hundreds.

The amateur who really means to get the best results should not hesitate about spending a few dollars on getting a good spray pump and one that has extension rods, by which the spray can be easily carried to the tops of high trees will be well worth the extra dollars.

TRANSPLANTING DEVICE

During the hot weather one often wishes to transplant seedlings and plants but is deterred by fear of losing the plants or the work is needlessly delayed by waiting for a rainy day.

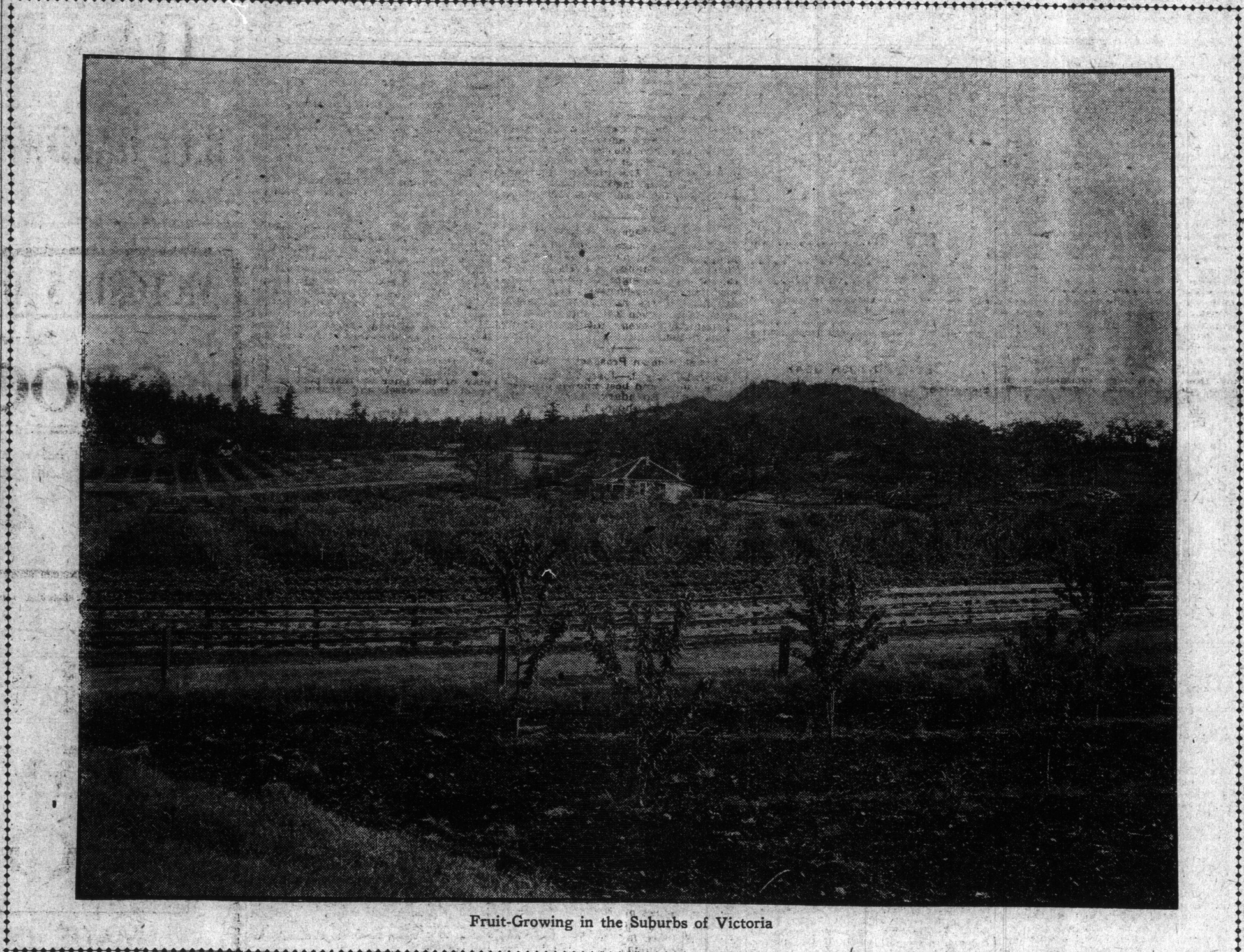
Here is a plan I have tried and found successful for several years. In the spring I save all the rakings of grass and leaves and leave them in a pile to make leaf-mold. When I wish to do any transplanting I dig either a trench or a series of holes, as the plants require, about two inches lower than most of the plant's roots will come.

Then I take some of those partly decomposed leaves and put them in a pail and wet the leaves thoroughly and place a layer of them about an inch and a half thick in the bottom of the trench or hole and the level of the ground, filling in with the dirt previously removed. I set out the plants then just as anyone does earlier in the spring, using a dibble to make the holes for the plants.

The wet leaves put the moisture where the plants want it—at its roots, and the soil is not made in a hard cake around the roots, which is the ordinary manner when water is poured into a trench. By capillary attraction the soil becomes moist all around the plant, but remains loose, and the leaves hold the moisture for several days, acting much like a sponge. It is also a great saving in water, which is an important item wherever it is costly or has to be carried by hand a considerable distance.

Of course, one must be very careful in digging up the plants to get as many of the roots as possible and be especially careful not to expose leaves or roots to the wind or sun during transplanting.

By this method I have done transplanting even in the morning of hot days and seldom met with a loss. If the day is very hot I put something up to shelter the plants the first day—Marie L. DeGraft.



Fruit-Growing in the Suburbs of Victoria

tender roses requiring winter protection. In the fall, give a mulch of six inches of good manure, which will not only serve as a winter protection but will also prevent the soil clogging up the interspaces. Sphagnum moss answers admirably, but anything of a like nature will do.

Roses revel in deep, well-enriched soil and I have yet to hear of any one getting a bad too rich for roses. Thoroughly trench the soil three feet deep and add to every two cubic yards of earth one cubic yard of manure. Cow manure is the best, but if you have yard manure will do. As the top, or surface, has most fertility, it is turned to the bottom in the trenching, which should be done at the end of the winter before planting—ten weeks is better—to give the ground an opportunity to settle before planting.

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