When it rains all over the ground, this spread out absorption is of course not possible. The surface being wet all over, water must go down—which makes the difference between real rain and the make-believe rain sprayed from the end of a hose. Give up the thought of watering anything—unless it may be some especial thing that according to its cultural directions does require watering, and turn attention to tilling. This is the great conserver of moisture. The garden that is well tilled will never suffer during any ordinary drought.

It is as old as the everlasting hills, that phrase "tilling the soil," yet it is only lately that there has been a general reawakening to the great importance of the operation thus expressed. Thorough tillage means ground surface always loosened. This provides a little blanket of earth through which the sun cannot draw the precious water back up again, after the earth has drunk its fill, and the rain has ceased, and he has come out to lord it over everything once more. For that is what happens; the rain comes down and the parched earth takes it in like a sponge, and it sinks down deeper and deeper, as long as it goes on raining. After weeks of rain the ground is wet to a great depth.

As soon as the rain is over, however, and the sun begins to shine, the contrary movement of the moisture at once begins. First that at the top moves up and off into the atmosphere, under the sun's vital pull; then that that is lower down feels the force, and so on until every bit of moisture from the deepest part has traveled back up to the surface and off again—every bit that is, that has not run away in springs and streams to the rivers and the sea.

The only thing in the world that will stop this upward movement is tillage. Tillage does it because it moves the upper particles of earth so far apart that capillary attraction cannot