

## GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

## GROWING LETTUCE IN WINTER.

W. D. Philbrick writes to the *New England Farmer* :—

"Lettuce growing has come to be an important part of the gardener's work, since the demand for it is so constantly increasing. To grow good lettuce requires a temperature of 40 degrees to 50 degrees by night, and 50 degrees to 80 degrees by day; whenever these conditions are faithfully attended to, lettuce will grow rapidly; if, however, it gets frozen and mildew attacks it, it is often better to throw it away and begin over again, than to attempt to recover. Freezing slightly will not injure healthy lettuce when growing slowly, but it checks its growth for a week after freezing, and this gives the mildew time to get ahead and destroy the crop; mildew does not seriously damage quickly grown lettuce. There is, however, danger, in growing it quickly, that the tender edges of the leaves will blight or burn when a clear day with a dry wind makes it necessary to air the bed freely. This blighting usually occurs after several days of dark and cloudy weather which induce tender growth; the tender leaves are then in such a condition that they cannot endure bright sun and free circulation of dry air. The most skilful gardeners lose some lettuce from this cause, and it is very hard to avoid.

Between the mildew, the blight, and the depredations of insects, probably about half of the winter lettuce planted is lost, or sold at a mere trifle as damaged stock. In consequence, the remaining half sells at good prices, which appear profitable, and would be so if the crop were a sure one; but in fact it is a rather difficult crop to grow to perfection, and even with the most skilful is very uncertain."

## PLANT A GARDEN.

In the rush and hurry to do the work in the field, the garden work is postponed until a time of leisure, so it fails to receive much, if any, attention. A good garden is an indispensable requisite to the welfare of every family, especially to a farmer's family. Families in cities and large villages can better obtain a supply of garden products from the provision stores than can the farmer's family, which is usually a distance therefrom. And then vegetables fresh from the garden are worth twice as much as they are after they have been gathered one or two days. Those who never see a mess of green peas fresh from the garden do not know what a delicious dish they are. Every year they are kept after the gathering occasions as they are in flavour. So it is with many of the products of the garden.

Even plums, cherries, strawberries and the like are the best when first gathered from where they grow. Not only are the products of the garden much better when fresh, but they are also more healthful. Green peas, string beans, cucumbers, lettuce, when crisp and fresh from the garden, are healthful, yet, after having been gathered long enough to wilt, are very injurious and frequently occasion attacks of sickness. Families which are supplied with a good assortment of fresh garden fruits and vegetables will be less likely to suffer from sickness than those which have none.

In order to have a good garden, certain conditions must be complied with. First, there should be a piece of good ground suitable for the purpose, neither too wet nor too dry. Although it is a great advantage to have a suitable piece of ground for the garden, yet by care and attention a good garden can be made of an unpromising piece of land. Still, where a choice can be made, a favourable location should be preferred. Second,

the soil must be rich. Garden vegetables do not thrive unless placed in rich soil. A slow growth in poor soil greatly injures the quality of vegetables. The manure applied should be well decomposed, and thoroughly mixed with the soil. Superphosphate or guano is good to start the plants. The ground may be so laid out that a horse can be used to cultivate between the rows, and lessen the hand labour required.

Every garden should contain, besides all the usual garden vegetables, strawberries, raspberries, currants, blackberries and as many other small fruits as convenient. At least a few flowers should be sown for the "women and children," or, what is better, give them a portion of the garden to devote to floral culture. Few women are in the open air enough, and they should be encouraged to spend more time in the garden caring for the flowers or any other part of the garden which they may prefer.—*N. Y. Times*.

## ON PRUNING EVERGREENS.

Many people do not understand that evergreen trees bear pruning as well as most other kinds, and in many cases need it quite as much. We often see evergreens quite too tall for their location, and making a dwelling seem too low by contrast. Others are too spreading, their branches obstructing a pathway or shutting out a good view. Where it is desirable to check the height of such trees as the Norway spruce, cut off the tip or leading shoot before it attains the full height desired; then two or three leaders will probably be developed in a year or two, and the tree will assume a dense and dwarfish form. At the same time all the side branches can be shortened as much as desired. If done before the growth takes place in spring, new buds will be formed at the cut, and several small branches in the place of each larger one removed.

Pines can also be shortened in, but these only form new shoots at the joints or wounds; hence it is best to cut at one of these. A better way still, with young pines, is to go over them in the latter part of the spring, when the new shoots have just pushed forth and are very tender and brittle, and break off with the fingers the centre shoot in each whorl, and the others also if the growth needs to be severely checked. Hemlock and arbor vitae can be pruned with knife or shears as closely as desired, and hedges or screens of all kinds should be closely clipped every spring before new growth begins.

## A STORY WITH A MORAL.

The *N. Y. Tribune*—good authority—is responsible for the following:—Mr. J. C. Ashley, house-carpenter, settled on a bit of land near the pleasant village of Lakewood, N. J. The air there is salubrious; some of the soil fairly good, but his purpose was to have a garden merely, and depend for needful funds on what his trade could bring. Immigration soon fell off; wages dropped to seventy-five cents a day, and the outlook was dismal. Then he began to "think of farming," and resolved that if an honest effort in this line wouldn't average him a dollar for each day of the year he would leave Jersey—"sell out and go to the United States." The following sequel of how he found less than "THREE ACRES ENOUGH," is told in the local *Times and Journal*, and more than one moral can be drawn from it:

"Some of my neighbours said it would be a failure—farming did not pay. Many who had ten to twelve acres left it to grow up to brush and weeds and took their departure. I had buried my money here, and I was going to dig for it. I dug stumps, raked roots, and grubbed until I got the land in pretty fair condition. Then I dressed it well with fertilizers, put out the best varieties of fruit, gave

them the best of care, and I soon began to realize what I have often heard repeated: A little farm well tilled; a little home well filled; a little wife well willed; then you are on the road to prosperity. My efforts were crowned with success. I was not long in realizing my dollar a day, with an increase as the condition of my land improved, until the past season I turned off from my little 2 85-100 acres over \$500 worth of fruit, vegetables and seeds, besides keeping from one-quarter to one-third in grass. I will give you some of the items:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 10,000 young onions.....   | \$25 00 |
| Spinach and pieplant.....  | 8 00    |
| Plants, various kinds..... | 15 00   |
| 112 bu. strawberries.....  | 358 40  |
| 300 qts. raspberries.....  | 25 00   |
| 275 qts. currants.....     | 22 00   |
| 15 bu. early potatoes..... | 20 00   |
| 20 bu. pears.....          | 25 00   |
| 5 bu. onion sets.....      | 20 00   |
| Other fruits.....          | 5 00    |
| 25 lb. sage.....           | 12 50   |
| 15 lb. turnip seed.....    | 15 00   |
| 4 lb. sage seed.....       | 10 00   |

Besides the above, not included in figures, we have canned fruit, etc.: 100 one quart cans pears; 12 do. strawberries; 12 do. crab apples; 10 qts. pear jelly; 10 qts. crab apple jelly."

## DISTANCES APART FOR TREES.

Existing orchards illustrate the varied opinions of orchardists relating to the distance trees should be planted apart. Thirty feet was considered sufficient for all purposes when I planted my orchard of ten acres twenty years ago, but we are gradually learning that to grow perfect fruit in size and colour, plenty of sunshine and a free circulation of air are important essentials; and as many are now practising, thirty-five or even forty feet apart is decidedly a preferable distance for a fully matured orchard.

## MAKE THE GROUND COUNT.

We have learned one mistake we have made for years past, and that is, covering too much ground with too few plants. Vacancies not only make a loss, but are expensive every way—in preparation and cultivation of soil, in extra expense for manure, and in interest and tax on land. We are too apt to be ambitious as to having a great number of acres planted, regardless of the yield, expense, etc. We will guarantee that, as a rule, persons having the least land get the most fruit from their land in proportion to the number of acres, and make the most money.—*Fruit Recorder*.

Save the soot that falls from the chimneys. A pint of soot to a pailful of water will make a liquid manure of great value for flowers and plants of all kinds.

A lady writes that she never turns her window plants, and, as a consequence, gets a great many more blossoms than when she kept turning them, trying to keep them in pretty form.

Mr. Vick is quoted as saying that the "White Worm," or any other worm, in pots, may be destroyed by sticking three or four common matches down into the soil, also one or two up into the drain opening. The phosphorus on the match is certain death to animal life, and a powerful fertilizer for plants.

Much may be saved in a year by taking care of things; by not letting the tea-kettle boil dry, and by taking thought about other matters. For instance, when you buy a broom, instead of leaving it standing in a corner of the kitchen, and so making it one-sided, bore a hole in the handle, tie a stout cord in it, and hang it up when you are through using it, or screw a staple in the top of the handle to hang it up by; the broom will last twice as long.