

The Garden.

ESSENTIALS TO A GOOD GARDEN.

It goes without saying that a garden soil should be very fertile and one need not expect to get good results from poor or even fairly fertile soil. No, it must be very fertile. Garden crops generally are planted closer than field crops, hence it takes a greater amount of available fertility. A good garden is a pleasure as well as a profit. To have a good garden, aside from the fertile soil which is indispensable, one must have seed and a good grip on the hoe handle or a good plow. "Tillage is manure" is ever truer than when it comes to raising the garden truck. So we have the three things needed, good soil, good seed and good cultivation.

One should be liberal in every respect in the garden. Liberal with manure, liberal with seed, with work and with the soil, that is, make the garden large enough. Learn to liberality in everything but growing weeds, and here there should be no quarter given, but let every weed perish miserably and in its youth. This entails work and lots of it. Yes, more than your wife can do and attend to the chickens, milk the cows and do the housework for you and your children and a possible hired man. Be liberal. Feed the garden yourself.—[A. N. Springer, Tipton Co., Ind.]

WORK AMONG HOTBEDS.

It will often be necessary to cover the sash with straw, mats, light manure, etc., on cold and frosty nights. Remove the covering when weather permits at about 9 a. m. or as soon as the sun rests upon the glass, as every effort should be made to give the plants all the sunlight possible, as its rays are vivifying to a degree beyond the amount of its heat. It having a chemical and physiological effect beyond explanation.

Even dull light is better than no light, consequently it is a bad plan to cover the sash with mats except for direct purpose of keeping out cold. Give a little air about 10 a. m. cut off the air in the afternoon as soon as it becomes the least chilly, then if necessary cover with mats, etc., about sunset to retain heat. Care should be taken to keep cold winds from blowing in upon the plants when sash are removed to admit air. Great care should be taken in watering hotbeds. Do not give too much water, for if this be done the soil is apt to become soggy and sour. Success depends upon bottom heat from the manure, top heat from the sun, water from daily application and air at mid-day. With an plenty of air the other requisites will be fruitless. All seedlings should be transplanted to other hotbeds, cold frames or intermediate beds when 2 in high.

A LITTLE KNOWN VEGETABLE.

Salsify is easily grown, may be cultivated without trouble, and is easily stored for winter use. The seeds are sometimes planted with a drill, but on account of being so sharply curved at the ends it is rather difficult to obtain an even distribution in this way, unless they are very thoroughly cleaned. They may be planted thickly, to be thinned later on, or the seeds may be dropped from 4 to 6 in apart in the first place. The soil should be rich, but with well-rotted manure worked deep and thoroughly. Upon the perfect condition of the soil depends the straightness and smoothness of the roots, there being a tendency to branch where fresh manure is applied. The plants should be cultivated as parsnips are. They are very hardy, are not affected by frost and may be left in the ground all winter without harm. But to have the roots ready for use they should be dug in the fall and stored away in soil or sand where the temperature is low. If exposed to the air the roots become shriveled and tasteless and are without value. Although the consumption is little, prices are high and remunerative and the amount grown is increasing. Whether or not it should be grown extensively is a question that the demand for the vegetable will settle, but there is no question whatever that it is worthy of cultivation for family use in every vegetable garden.

The varieties Long White and Sandwich Island have been tested by the Kansas experiment. There was little

difference in the total yield, Sandwich Island being ahead, but the roots of Sandwich Island had fewer lat-erals and were smoother. Where a good stand the yield was very nearly a pound to the foot of row.

TRANSPLANTING THE CABBAGE.

Cabbage is one of the market gardeners' best paying crops and should have good attention. A gross feeder you can scarcely make the soil too rich. It luxuriates in plenty of good coarse manure. In Ia, we usually sow seed for the early crop in hotbeds during late February or early March, and when plants are 3 in high transplant to cold frames, and then set in the field in April as soon as the ground is in good working condition.

No danger from frost need be feared, as the cabbage plant, if properly hardened up in cold frames, will stand any frost likely to occur. If not properly hardened up when set and there is danger of frost, cover plants with earth by hoeing soil over them, which is better than covering with any other material. If weather continues cold and dry, no damage will occur to the plants for 3 or 4 days. Henderson's Improved Jersey Wakefield is as good an early variety for this locality as we have tried. Early Winningstadt is a good second early. Premium Flat Dutch for late is one of our best keepers.—[W. S. Fulton, Muscatine Co., Ia.]

A Labor Saving Dibber—Take a stick, a, 4½ ft long, about 1½ in in diameter for a handle and fix an iron point on one end. Cut a groove square across the handle about 1 ft from the pointed end, b, ¼ in deep, 1 in wide, and make a small hole in center of groove. Take another stick, c, 3 ft long, ½ in thick and 1 in wide and make holes in it, same size as the one in handle, at 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 28 and 30 in from one end. Fasten to handle with a small bolt.

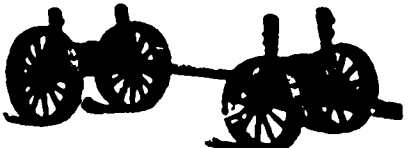
Using a 8 in x 1 1/2 in thumb screw and washer, and fastening at hole same distance apart. Take dibber ahead directly with the row. Make first hole by pushing point of handle into the ground, and notice where end of stick is, make next hole at this place. Now reverse dibber, having stick pointed back of way you are walking, put end at last hole made, make next, and so on. Holes can be made nearly as fast as one can walk, and will be enabled to do the work without the usual fatigue experienced when using the ordinary dibber.—[J. G. Allshouse, Armstrong Co., Pa.]

Succession in Sweet Corn—For early, corn is very hardy. Quincy Market follows in a few days and is a big cropper of large and sweet ears. Better's Excelsior and Original Crosby are good sorts to follow Quincy Market. Country Gentleman, a very thick-kernelled and sweet variety, comes next. Then follows Stowell's Evergreen and Egyptian to wind up the season.—[J. J. H. Gregory, Mass.]

A revised estimate of the wooded area of the U. S. is that 27 per cent of the country is in the woods.

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