

**GARDEN AND ORCHARD.****WALKS IN THE GARDEN.—II.**

The garden just now is covered with its white blanket, but the careful gardener may always find something to do, even in January. The long winter evenings are a good time for laying plans for the work of the spring and summer, and a little forethought now may save a deal of wasted work hereafter. This is a good time, too, for overhauling hot-bed sashes and frames, and getting them in order for the time when they will be put in commission, which, after all, is not so far off. Then, if bees are kept, as they should be by every one who has time and inclination to attend to them, there are hives and frames to be made, sections to be put together and filled with foundation, and many other odd jobs, which are often left till actually wanted, and the pressure of work causes them to be only half done.

A good plan for a garden is indispensable, and saves a great deal of labour. Opinions differ as to looks, but there is no question that the longer the rows can be made, the less work there is in cultivating the same space. In my garden the rows are sixty feet long, and I have a diagram of it ruled with ink on a large card, the walks and trees being indicated, and the portion to be planted divided into spaces representing a foot each in width. In these I pencil the seeds to be planted, using the experience of previous years to guide me in the quantity of each vegetable. At the end of the season the pencil marks can be erased, and the diagram used again indefinitely. By this means uncertainty is avoided, and one can order seeds intelligently, knowing just what quantities are needed.

In making hot-bed sashes, I would strongly advise double-thick glass. Mine have been in use for a number of years, and while those glazed with common glass need repairing every spring, the others have never had a pane smashed. Dogs and cats walk over them with impunity, and they stand rough usage much better. The first cost of the glass is a trifle more, but it pays. It is preferable, I think, to have a frame to each sash. They are lighter and easier to handle, no assistance being needed to place them in position, and the heat can be kept more regular, which is a matter of considerable importance. Those things that require forcing can be forced to any extent, and those that want ventilation can get it. Inch lumber is thick enough for the frames, for all practical purposes.

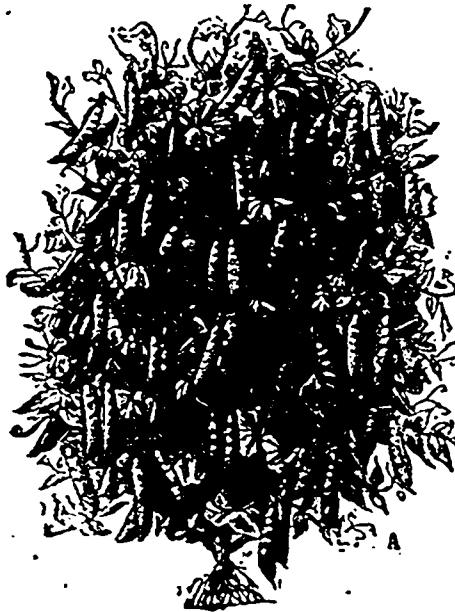
Most of the seedsmen issue their catalogues, and the wide-awake gardener will send post cards to half a dozen or so of the principal firms for them. Most of them are treasure houses of useful information to any one who has knowledge enough to apply it. The pages of *THE RURAL CANADIAN* will contain the advertisements of a number of reliable houses, all of whom will be glad enough to send their catalogue to all applicants. I have always found it advantageous to buy seeds direct from well-known houses, all of which deliver them by mail or express free of charge. Buying from local groceries is precarious, as the seeds handled by them are often sent out by commission houses and may or may not be good, any way there is the risk. Any seed house with a reputation to keep up will be careful to send out seeds that are true to name and that will grow—it would not pay them to do anything else.

Above all, don't forget to renew your subscription to *THE RURAL CANADIAN*, if you haven't already done so, and send another subscription

with your own to encourage the publisher. There isn't a number from January to December that will not pay you several times over for all it costs in a year. No one who intends to keep up with the times in agricultural matters, can afford to be without a good publication, and to my mind *THE RURAL* fills the bill. Y.

**BLISS' EVER-BEARING.**

This new Pea was thoroughly tested by Mr. William Rennie, gardener, Toronto, in his Trial Grounds last season, and he endorses the description furnished by the introducers: "Season late to very late. Height of vines, eighteen inches to two feet; foliage, very large; pods, three to four inches long on the average, each pod producing six to eight wrinkled peas; size of peas, very large, half an inch and over in diameter; quality, unsurpassed in sweetness as well as in flavour; in fact, it possesses a peculiar richness and marrowy flavour not found in any other variety. Its habit of growth is of a peculiar branching character, forming as many as ten stalks from a single root stalk. One hundred pods have been counted on a single vine. The individual branches are of extraordinary strength and substance, so that when billed up properly,



they stand up well without brushing. We do not hesitate to say that for continuance of bearing this variety is unexcelled, if equalled, a characteristic which gives it especial value for late summer and autumn use."

**BEST KIND OF STRAWBERRIES.**

EDITOR *RURAL*:

I am thinking of growing strawberries next year, will you please insert in *THE RURAL* the best kind of berries and best manures and distance apart?

WM. CARR, Westfield, Huron Co.

The James Vick, or the Wilson, will be found the most prolific, and best adapted to field culture, but for size and quality, the Daniel Boone, or the Prince of Berries, are much superior. There is no manure equal to well-rotted stable manure, which should be thoroughly ploughed in, and the ground well cultivated and drained. Plant the rows about three feet apart.

**MAKING HOT BEDS.**

In making hot beds for "early gardening," if you have plenty of manure, it is a great saving of time and labour not to dig a trench. Build up a square pile of manure two feet larger every way than the frame of your bed, being careful to tramp it well and keep it level so that it will settle down evenly. Make the depth to suit the season of the year and the crop will be grown. Set the frame

on the manure and put in the earth just as you would into a bed made in the old way. Then bank up the outside of the frame to the top with more manure. This is not *theory*, but the result of years of experience, and has been tested during some of the coldest winters of Northern Indiana. If more beds are wanted they can be made along side, leaving a foot or fifteen inches between the frames. A great deal of nonsense has been written about the waste of using stable manure for hot beds. Of course, if the manure "fire fangs," as it is called, or burns dry and looks white and mouldy when forked over, there has been waste. But if there is plenty of litter (straw, old hay or leaves) mixed with the manure, and the whole mass soaked with water as it is tramped down, there will be very little loss. When the manure is hauled away it will be found to be black and evenly rotted with seldom any signs of burning. If in making a bed in cold weather, it is found that the manure is not heating satisfactorily, by using boiling water to soak the pile the heat can be hastened very much.

**WINTERING GERANIUMS.**

Geraniums properly managed may be almost as easily kept as potatoes. Not by hanging them up, although this way sometimes succeeds in a very cool cellar that never freezes, and the air of which is not too wet nor too dry—perhaps one in a hundred. The mode we have long adopted with entire success is to take up the plants as soon in autumn as it is unsafe to leave them out, trim off nearly all the tops, leaving a few buds and small leaves, and then plant them in boxes about two feet square and eight inches deep, using damp old sawdust to plant them in, packing it solid and filling carefully all the interstices. If put in loosely, it will settle away and the roots become dry. A dozen or twenty may be placed in one box of the size we have described. The size of the box is a matter of no importance, only for convenience in handling. Place the boxes square and close against the largest and lightest window in the cellar, where the plants can have good light. A small dark window will hardly answer. The boxes may stand on a step-ladder, goods box, or flower stand, close up to the glass. The sawdust need not be wet, but only slightly damp, and will not require wetting more than two or three times before spring, even in a warm and dry cellar. In such a cellar the plants will make some growth; in a cool department they will remain nearly dormant. In spring, start them in a hot-bed and set out in a well manured bed as soon as the weather will safely admit, and they will bloom all through the season. If there are only a few and there is no hot-bed, they may be started in pots in the house.—*Exchange*.

**WINTER CARE OF FLOWERS.**

A beautiful window of flowers in winter is easily had with but little care and attention if properly done. Do not keep the flowers too wet, especially in dull weather. Air as often as possible when not too cold. Do not allow the cold air to blow upon them, but lower the top of the window to air them, and do it in still weather. When there is danger of freezing, place a cotton cloth, such as an old table cover, over the plants and support it by light sticks. Place pails of water among the plants, as the water will freeze before they are injured. If the plants are frozen immerse the whole of them in cold water by turning them upside down, taking care not to allow them to fall out. The leaves are much improved by using a small syringe and spray the leaves with water which will make fresh, green foliage. J. Vick.