

The Farm Garden

Every farm home should have vegetables for use all the year round

A SASKATCHEWAN GARDEN

First Prize Article

The farm or kitchen garden is to the Western farmer what the orchard and bush fruit are to the Easterner. The relation between the farm garden and rural living can only be fully realized when located remote from town and rural settlement. Vegetable growing involves more detail than the growing of farm crops. Many of these details may be of minor importance so far as the growing of farm crops are concerned, but may determine the success or failure of the amateur gardener.

The farm garden aids considerably in reducing the high cost of living, and also promotes the general health of the home.

A few of the most important points to be considered in selecting and management of the farm garden are: Size and arrangement, location and soil, cultivation, fertilizers, kind and variety of vegetables, general care thru the growing season, storing for winter use and seeds and sources of supply.

The size of the garden lot may vary from a half acre to one acre, depending on the demands of the household. It should be sufficiently large, however, to give a supply of vegetables thruout the growing season, and a surplus of such as are suitable for winter storage. Supposing we arrange an acre to be managed on a two-year rotation, one half to be planted in potatoes for family use, the other to be devoted to the culture of vegetables and vines. In rows 20 inches apart running parallel with the potatoes, I would seed in the following order: Carrots, parsnips, beets, turnips, corn, peas, brussels sprouts, leeks, salsify, beans and spinach. In rows two feet apart I would set out cabbage and cauliflower. Then in rows 15 inches apart would be sown radishes, lettuce, parsley, onion/seed and sets, and herbs for flavoring purposes. On the opposite side I would set out one row each of rhubarb and asparagus, three feet apart, parallel with the other part already sown. A space of twelve feet would be planted in vines, such as citrons, squash, tomatoes and pumpkins, leaving the balance for successive sowing of peas, radishes, lettuce, beans and cauliflower. My arrangement would mean that all coarse crops would receive horse tillage, thus lightening the manual labor and expense of production. Only such crops as do best in close drills would require much hoeing.

Location

The garden lot should be close to the dwelling, and have an elevated exposure. Good drainage and a suitable soil are important factors in locating the farm garden. A sandy loam is an ideal soil for vegetable growing. The soil being sandy not only improves the quality but assures a higher germination of seed. While the soil cannot be too rich it may be too damp and cold, thus retarding growth and maturity. It is better in all circumstances to select the lightest soil available for vegetable growing. The

cultivation is a very important factor in the growing of vegetables, and it is scarcely possible to have the farm garden soil in too good a condition. A fine, rich soil will aid germination and general growth.

Good tillage both before and after sowing are very essential to vegetable production, and the soil is left in a very desirable condition for the succeeding crop. Tillage tends to conserve moisture, destroy weeds and promote vegetation.

Fertilizers

Many forms of fertilizers are recommended for vegetable growing. Commercial fertilizers are expensive and vary so much in their composition that buying the different ingredients and mixing at home is the only reliable course. Fertilizer in the proportion of 325 pounds acid phosphate, 125 pounds of nitrate of soda, and 150 pounds of muriate of potash well mixed will stimulate growth and hasten maturity, or an application of 200 pounds nitrate of soda will improve the physical texture of clay soils and improve the quality of your vegetables. Twenty tons of well-rotted farmyard manure, however, applied annually per acre, will meet with all practical requirements.

Suitable Varieties

Carrots are one of the most reliable vegetables, hard and good keepers, and used for a variety of purposes. Seed one inch deep in rows 20 inches apart, in late fall or early spring on well prepared soil. Thin to five inches. Danver's Half Long, Ox-Heart, or Chantenay are good varieties.

Beetroots are very desirable vegetables, the young plants being used as greens and the mature bulb for pickles. Sow early in spring in rows 20 inches apart and one inch deep in drill. Thin to six or eight inches. For clay soil Eclipse, Detroit Dark Red and Early Blood Turnip; for light soil Intermediate and Long Blood Red are good varieties.

Turnips are one of the largest bulk producers of the garden. They are hardy, sure germinators, and remarkable keepers. All varieties do well in the West, but for garden purposes the Purple Top Swede, Imperial Purple Top or Hall's Westerbury are best adapted to conditions, while Orange Ball and Early Milan are good garden

varieties for early use. Sow in the middle of May in drills or rows 2 feet apart, cover one inch and thin to eight inches. Sow parsnips early in the spring in rows 20 inches apart and one inch deep, and thin to five inches in the row. Parsnips will succeed in most soils, but prefer a deep mellow loam. They are good table vegetables and good keepers. Hollow Crown and Manitoba Prize are good varieties.

Sow parsley in spring in rows 15 inches apart and three-quarters of an inch deep, or sow early in boxes and transplant in May. Moss-Curled or Triple Moss Curled.

Corn

Plant in rows 30 inches apart about the middle of May, cover two inches and cultivate shallow thruout the entire growing season. White Squaw, Early Cory or Malakoff are good varieties. Sow garden peas in rows 20 inches apart early in May, cover two inches in good soil and cultivate. American Wonder, Surprise and Extra Early are good early sorts, while Stratagem, Hero and Nott's Excelsior are very good main crop varieties.

Brussels sprouts may be sown either in hotbed or in the open early in May; thin out to 15 inches apart and cultivate thruout the growing season. The seed should be sown in rows 20 inches apart and one inch deep, then thin to 15 inches.

Salsify or vegetable oyster can be sown in rows 20 inches apart and a half-inch deep, four inches apart in the rows. These plants will be found to be excellent for soup and good keepers. Sandwich Island is a good variety.

To plant beans drop the seed in rows 20 inches apart and four inches in the rows, two inches deep, as soon as danger of frost is over, say, the middle of May. Golden Wax, Wardwell Kidney Wax, Early Six Weeks and Extra Dwarf Early. Only the earliest varieties of beans should be used, as they are tender. Spinach is used for greens and in soup. Sow in rows 15 inches apart and one inch deep, thin to eight inches in the row. The tops are used. Long Standing and Victoria are good varieties.

Cabbage and Cauliflower

For early cabbage start the seed early in March in boxes and place in a warm room or in hotbed about April

1. Seed should be sown one inch deep in moistened soil, care being taken that the soil is not too wet. The main crop may be sown in the open about the last of April in drills two feet apart, and thinned to 18 inches apart in the rows when plants are three inches high. The forced plants should be transplanted when two inches high into flats or cold frame and gradually exposed for ten days before setting out. Set out in rows the same as above. The soil for cabbage should be rich and deeply worked. Twenty tons per acre of well-rotted farmyard manure plowed in in the spring, or an application of slaughterhouse refuse or commercial fertilizer at the rate of 500 pounds per acre will benefit this crop, as it is a gross feeder and requires a rich soil. Good summer tillage will also stimulate development. Early Winningstadt, Early Jersey Wakefield and Copenhagen Market are good early sorts; Large Flat Drumhead, Henderson's Early Summer and Danish Ballhead are good main cropers and good keepers. Cabbage or cut worm may be kept in check by the use of bran and Paris green, one part to twenty of moistened bran mixed well and spread on the ground. Cauliflower will succeed well under similar treatment to cabbage, but successive sowings will be advisable as the heads are quick to spoil if not used. When the heads are three inches in diameter the leaves should be tied up to maintain the color. Early Snowball and Early Dwarf Erfurt are the most reliable varieties. Set out in rows two feet apart and 15 inches in the row.

Radishes and asparagus are the first spring vegetables, and for this reason should receive attention. Radishes may be sown in drills 15 inches apart as soon as the ground is in suitable condition. Under ordinary cultivation this vegetable will produce a very large amount of green relish. Sow in rows 15 inches apart and one inch deep every ten days from April 1 to July 1. Crimson Giant, French Breakfast and Olive Scarlet are good varieties.

Lettuce should be sown in succession from May 1 till July 1 in rows 15 inches apart and one inch deep. By forcing, this plant can be made one of the finest table delicacies, crisp and appetizing. Big Boston, Early Hanson, Black Seeded Simpson and Grand Rapids are all good sorts.

Onions may be sown quite early in the spring or even in late autumn in firm, rich soil, they are surface feeders. Applications of commercial fertilizers, particularly potash, are beneficial. Sow in drills one inch deep and 15 inches apart in good rich loam. Firm the soil after sowing. For early use or market the seed may be sown in hotbed or in boxes and transferred when conditions are favorable. When the top dies it indicates maturity. It is then time to pull, and leave the onions on the ground to dry for a few days. Large Wetherfield, Early Australian Brown, Danver's Yellow Globe and Giant Silverskin are good varieties. Onion sets are of great importance for early use, and also the Dutch sets are reliable.



A SPLENDID DISPLAY OF GARDEN PRODUCE

Photo, courtesy of the G.T.P.

Continued on Page 23