

10. See that the School Garden is in excellent shape before leaving it for the summer vacation, and then place it in the care of some reliable person or persons who can be depended upon to keep it clean and well cultivated until the school re-opens. Pupils should be encouraged to visit the garden at stated times during the vacation to cultivate their plots.

11. Do not allow any of the children to waste the products of their plots; induce them to take the produce home to their parents, to give it to a friend or neighbor who would be pleased with the gift, or to put it to some other proper use. Bouquets of garden flowers may be sent to the nearest hospital or to sick people at their homes. At schools where Domestic Science is taught, the School Garden will supply the table with vegetables and flowers. The products of common plots may be sold for the benefit of the school.

12. Lists of good books on gardening and related subjects can be found in the catalogues issued free by the leading seedsmen. Much useful information may be found in the bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa; these can be had for the asking.

History of School Gardens.

Long before public schools had an existence, the value of the school garden was recognized in Europe, and we are told that by the middle of the Sixteenth Century almost all of the Italian Universities and many Italian cities possessed botanical gardens. Two hundred and fifty years ago Trave old Comenius said:—"A garden should be connected with every school, where children can at times gaze upon trees, flowers, and herbs, and be taught to enjoy them." As if in response to this prophetic declaration, his native country, two hundred years later, was the first to require by law the establishment of school gardens in connection with elementary schools. The Austrian Imperial School Law of 1869 prescribes that "when practicable a garden and a place for agricultural experiments shall be established with every rural school." To-day Austro-Hungary can boast of nearly twenty thousand school gardens. In one province every school has a garden. Bohemia has four thousand five hundred, and its enormous crops of fruit are by many ascribed to school instruction.

In Sweden in 1860 a royal proclamation required school gardens, varying from seventy to one hundred and fifty square rods to be appropriately laid out for the children of elementary schools. In 1876 Sweden had one thousand six hundred such gardens, and now the number is nearly five thousand.

In Belgium the school law of 1873 provides that every school shall have a garden of at least one-quarter acre, and a royal decree of 1897 requires that all teachers shall be able to give theoretical and practical instruction in botany, horticulture and agriculture.

In Switzerland the cantons have encouraged the establishment of school gardens, and ample provision has been made for suitable instruction in the Normal Schools. The results have been excellent, France has