

GARDENS.

Most persons who have only a small spot of land pay particular attention to gardens; but the farmer who has many crosses to attend to—often too many—generally neglects his garden. But few devote to much time to this subject as it deserves. Not one farmer in five has a good garden with an assortment of vegetables so as to have a good variety early and late in the season, and a good store for the winter. This is not for want of land nor team, but the farmer says it is for want of time. This is no excuse; for he who can raise potatoes and grain for his family, can raise without any more expense a great variety of vegetables.

If a family be amply supplied through almost the whole year, as they may be, with choice vegetables from the garden, much less expense will be necessary for other kinds of food, some of which the farmer buys at twice the cost of producing garden vegetables, to say nothing of the pleasure of having a greater variety of food and living on one's own productions. So the farmer should have a good garden whether he consults pleasure or economy. On one fourth of an acre there may frequently be raised in a garden as much in value as on a whole acre in the field, and at less expense. Many an hour may be spent with pleasure in working in the garden when it is not convenient to work in the field. The children will do much in a garden if properly directed and encouraged. The women too will find a little exercise in the garden, with the light and convenient tools now made for their use, a source of health and pleasure. It will be a different exercise to that which they are constantly taking in the house, and this in connection with the open air will improve their health and strength, and "give to the cheek a fairer bloom." The farmer will find that if he lays out to have a good garden the whole family will cheerfully aid him, and his great is the pleasure to break the dull sameness of toil, by spending an hour in the garden occasionally with one's family around him, all engaged in the same pleasant and profitable labour. Even the little ones that cannot distinguish a plant from a weed, will afford pleasure in their desire to join the rest in their pleasant labours, and with the advantages of directing their tender minds to discriminate between the useful and worthless.

We will give a few directions by which a garden may be managed with less than half the expense that they usually require. In the first place we would observe that according to present management, it frequently becomes necessary to dig up a garden with a spade, carry on the manure with a wheelbarrow, or some slower process, which is done by manual labour, which might be done to better advantage with animal labour.

A good spot should be selected for a garden, and if convenient it should include a variety of soil, some parts rather moist, others dry, but this is not always convenient, and a soil may be easily improved, whether too wet or too dry. If it be too wet it should be thrown up and well drained. We have made an excellent garden spot from a mud hole, just by throwing into high beds, so that the water would drain off. If a soil be too light and dry, clay or mud may be added to improve it.

A garden should be laid out in such a manner that it can all be ploughed conveniently, excepting a narrow strip on one side, where there should be currant and gooseberry bushes, and other shrubbery, and next to them should be various biennial and perennial plants, such as herbs, flowers, &c., all arranged closely on one side next to the bushes and shrubbery, then all the rest can be conveniently ploughed, and it should be so arranged that a team may pass through the centre, if not in other parts with manure. This plan will save more than half the labour, by managing in the following manner.

Select now a suitable spot and if any part of is in grass plough it up and plant it that it may be in a suitable condition for a garden. A substantial fence around a garden is absolutely necessary, and there should be a gate or bars at each end, if it be so situated that a team pass through, as this will save the disadvantage of turning the team in the garden which will be injurious in treading down the soil and as much room is required for this purpose it is frequently attended with inconvenience. Where there is a passage through the garden, it is more convenient in ploughing, and a passage in the centre may be used till late in hauling on manure if necessary, and then ploughed and planted in cucumbers for pickles, cabbages, and other late crops.

To manage a garden with economy as to labour, it should be manured in the fall and ploughed deeply; subsoil ploughing will be beneficial; if a farmer has not a subsoil plough, there will be an advantage in trench ploughing. This is necessary in order to loosen the soil to a great depth, which greatly promotes the growth of most garden vegetables, and is a protection against drought.

By applying manure in the fall it becomes thoroughly mixed with the soil, and partially decomposed and more fine and mellow, and ploughing exposes the soil to the frost which destroys insects and improves its condition for tender plants. If manure cannot be applied and the ploughing done in the fall, it should be done as early as possible in the spring, that the seeds in the soil and manure may vegetate and be destroyed before the main crops are planted.

Early in the spring on one side of the garden should be ploughed and prepared for early vegetables. The other parts should be ploughed again, harrowed or worked with the cultivator as soon as the weeds start, in order to destroy them, and as other seeds, after the early varieties and kinds that require early planting, come on in succession, a narrow strip may be ploughed on one side and planted; and as the weeds start up in the part not yet planted, it should be worked over again, and so proceed till the time of planting. In this way the land will be worked over several times before sowing which will destroy the weeds, and as it is done by animal labour it costs a mere trifle, and the soil is improved enough by this frequent necessary for garden plants, to pay the whole expense. Proceed in planting every thing in its proper time, in strips on each side, approaching the centre, which may be left open to the last as a thoroughfare. By this plan every part of the garden is conveniently ploughed or stirred just before sowing, which is important to success, and the weeds are destroyed before the plants are on the ground; and if the seed be soaked before sowing, so as to start them quickly the plants will be up before the few weeds which will afterwards start make their appearance. In this way the weeding is done before planting, and by animal labour too, which will save more than half the labour usually expended on gardens, and it will ensure an abundant crop.

No weeds should be allowed to go to seed in the garden, and the manure applied should be free as possible from grass and weed seeds. Let a farmer pursue this general plan and he will no longer say that he has no time to attend to a garden, but he will find that it will not only be the most pleasant and beautiful spot, but the most profitable of any on his farm. By managing as we have named, in applying the manure early, and stirring the soil to render it mellow and destroy the weeds, and starting seeds by sprouting, we have so prepared the soil and destroyed the weeds that we could weed a larger piece before breakfast, than we could in a whole day by the common method of cultivation. Farmers, try this mode. Some of you can lay out gardens on this plan now, others can prepare the soil and complete the plan in the fall.—*Boston Cultivator*.

CUT FEED.

Mr. Editor.—As much is said, and I think truly said, in favour of cutting feed for fat cattle, I wish to ask you one question viz:—Will one ton of English hay by being cut, keep a cow longer than the same quantity will without being cut?

By giving your mind upon the subject, sir; you will oblige. A SUBSCRIBER.
Brookfield, April 5th, 1843.

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.—There are many advantages in cutting fodder, as in this way much that is coarse, and would otherwise be wasted, will be eaten up clean when cut and sprinkled with salt water and mixed with meal or bran; or mixed with roots, chopped fine. In this way stock will eat much fodder that contains a good share of nutriment which they would refuse without this preparation.

Some old animals which cannot thoroughly masticate hard fodder, are greatly benefited by having their food so prepared that they can eat it with comfort and digest it. In hot weather when horses are too thirsty to eat dry food, and too hot to drink, they may safely eat prepared food, and thus relieve their thirst and satisfy their hunger.

But will young animals, or any others which can thoroughly masticate their food, and have a plenty of time to do it, be benefited by cutting such fodder they would eat up clean without this preparation? Or will such fodder last any longer thus prepared? This question in substance is the same as that of our correspondent. We answer that it is a doubtful question, which has not been accurately decided by experiments, and which is rather difficult to determine. Some have thought that there was an advantage in cutting fodder for an animal in full vigor and strength and having nothing to do but eat. But they formed their opinions from observation, not by precise experiments; and it is difficult to make exact experiments on this subject, so as to draw a correct conclusion from the result. We are informed by a nice observer who keeps a number of horses, that he can perceive a difference in the condition of his animals, on the same food, when he cuts the hay. Sometime he has cut the fodder one month, then fed a month without cutting. He thinks that besides the advantage of mixing meal, grain, &c. with fodder, as animals eat it, that good hay alone is worth more than enough by being cut to pay the expense of this process. He thinks that cut food is more thoroughly chewed and of course better digested. It is not taken up so readily, nor swallowed down so voraciously as whole. We think that the best of hay will spend better and be more beneficial to animals when cut of a suitable length, say two inches, though they may have a plenty of time to eat and rest.—*N.*