



The Vegetable Garden

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In making a few brief hints on the selection, preparation and cultivation of a vegetable garden, I would say to the person intending to prepare one, that the great secret of successful gardening is commencing well, and taking care that what is done is done thoroughly.

In choosing a place for a garden, select a gentle slope, towards the south if possible, and sheltered on the north side by bush or hills, but when there are none, it should be protected by a high and tight board fence or wall; when thus sheltered it, will be several days earlier. The best soil for a garden is a sandy loam, but in the absence of this kind of soil from any place convenient to the residence, select the most suitable plot, and thoroughly underdrain it. Afterwards subsoil, or loosen the soil to the depth of two feet, without bringing any of the subsoil to the surface. Now haul some sandy loam to the garden, so as to cover it to the depth of five or six inches; if there is none on your farm, there is scarcely a place but what has some within a short distance. *Manuring* will be the next thing under consideration. If the soil is very light, ashes, well-rotted manure, and a little clay will effect a change; if heavy, ashes, manure, sand and lime will be beneficial. The size of the garden will depend upon the size of the family. It may be from one quarter to one half an acre; better too small than too large; for it is easy to make it larger if required, and there is nothing so unsightly as to see one end of a garden all grown over with grass and weeds. Now build a substantial fence, proof against garden thieves and fowls, for both of these classes are detrimental to gardening. All the time and money spent in the proper preparation of the soil is well spent; it is hardly possible to do too much in this way; it is the foundation of all after culture. It is like the foundation of a building; if an error has been made in this, it matters not how fine the superstructure may be, loss and disappointment will generally be the result. It does not cost much to put a small garden in good condition, while every dollar spent on its cultivation, when in bad order, is so much money wasted. But if put in good condition at first, it is both a pleasure and a profit to the owner. The implements necessary for garden culture are not very expensive. Only a few principal ones need be got at first, if expense is some consideration. A line will be found necessary, to lay out the garden walks and beds; a spade, a shovel, and a good hoe are indispensable, and these implements nearly every farmer has already. To draw drills, a drill-marker will be required, which every handy person can make; an iron tooth rake will be found necessary to finely pulverize and level the surface of the beds. A garden-trowel for transplanting, and a watering pot, made of good material, with a substantial wheel-barrow, are among the necessary implements for the garden. A necessary appendage for a garden is a *hot-bed*, so as to have vegetables early; for the majority of farmers do not reside near a professional gardener. A very good mode for constructing one will be found in the CANADA FARMER, vol. III, page 44. Also in the same volume, page 76, will be found a good plan for laying out a garden. No provision, however, is made in it for currants or gooseberries, but suitable places will readily suggest themselves to the reader, for these

useful fruits. The biennial and perennial plants should have the warmest plots in the garden.

In the next place, the selection of pure and fresh seed will be found necessary to give good satisfaction to the cultivator. The *kind* and *quantity* of the different vegetables and fruits should be left to the taste of the families, but it is not best to attempt to raise too many varieties at first. The pleasure and profit in gardening does not consist in having a great variety, but in growing everything well; many in commencing gardens want to grow everything valuable or new. This causes great trouble, expense, and ends in little satisfaction. The best method is to begin with a few good, tried plants, and add to their number as circumstances require and experience increases. By all means keep trees out of the garden; this is one great error which most farmers fall into, so that in a few years the garden looks more like an orchard than what it is intended to be. A *manure-heap* should be kept in one corner of the garden, upon which throw all the weeds and rubbish of the garden, together with the slops of the house, and turn it over two or three times, when an excellent compost will be made. Declare a war of extermination with all weeds, and you will have full satisfaction for all your trouble.

Ontario.

CULTIVATEUR.

Transplanting Fruit Trees.

Dry weather the first year kills many thousands of newly transplanted trees. The condition of the weather and season cannot of course be avoided, but the trees can be put in a condition to stand a moderately dry season. Most persons, on receipt of trees, are in too great haste to plant them out; and particularly so if the trees have been received from a great distance. I myself used to think it necessary to put the trees into the ground as soon as received, but have found out by sad experience that this plan will not always work well. If they have been received from a short distance, and are perfectly fresh, then it will do to put them in the ground immediately; but if they have been long on the road and are much dried up, then they must be restored before planting. To restore trees, bury their roots in the ground with their tops in a leaning position near the ground, so that they can be shaded and watered conveniently. If they had started to grow when received, keep them in the ground until the whole leaves become a dark healthy green; or if they were dry, keep them in the ground until they commence to grow. If the trees have become very dry, it will be necessary to bury them entirely, root and branch, by putting them in a trench and covering them with earth that will touch every part of their roots and branches. They must be watered frequently, and should remain in this condition from a week to ten days. Trees that have become quite dry, may be perfectly restored when treated in this manner, and when transplanted will grow vigorously, while those that were not treated in this way will be very apt to die.

The tops of trees need moisture as well as the roots, and when they are exposed to the wind and sun, instead of receiving moisture, they are dried out and killed. When setting out the trees, dig the hole large enough to admit the roots without breaking or bending them. Spade the ground up loose at the bottom and leave the middle considerably higher than any other part. This will induce the roots to grow downward in their natural position, instead of forcing them to grow upward, as is sometimes the case when they have been crammed into a small hole. Place the tree about the same depth in the ground that it stood in the nursery, then fill all spaces underneath and cover the roots with fine earth *with the hands*, leaving no openings for the air, but completely covering and touching the roots firmly on every part. After filling the hole about half full, pour in a pail of water and give it time to settle before filling in any more dirt. When the hole is filled up, press the earth around the tree to support it in an upright position. Cover the fresh dirt around the tree with straw or litter to the depth of four or six inches, which will obviate the necessity of watering, unless the season should be an extremely dry one. The frequent waterings which many people give their newly transplanted trees are often an injury than a benefit to them. If the season be an extremely dry one, it will be necessary to water trees once in two or three weeks. This should be done by removing the straw and loose dirt at the top, and pouring on a pailful of water. After the water has settled, replace the dry dirt and straw as before. Do not leave the earth around the tree naked and exposed to the sun, for it will bake and frequently

kill the tree. Watering the tops of the tree in the evening may be done as often as is convenient, with great advantage. It softens the bark and buds, and enables the tree to put forth its tender leaves directly. As to the time of planting trees, I will say that I have always had the best success with spring planting; although autumn planting has many advantages when trees are brought from a distance. But even in this case, I do not know but what it would be better to keep the trees over till spring and then plant them. Trees can be safely wintered in almost any climate by burying their roots in deep trenches. They should be placed in a leaning position, with their tops so near the ground that they may be covered with straw, corn stalks or leaves, to shelter them. Be careful and not cover the tops so closely as to smother them, for they require a small quantity of fresh air to keep them in a healthy condition.

If all these observations are heeded, in transplanting trees of any life at all, they will be almost certain to grow and do well.—*Wis. Farmer.*

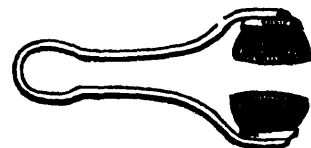
The Nursery Business.

WE are glad to learn that the nurserymen have been doing a brisk business the present spring. The season has been an extremely favourable one for lifting and planting trees, and it is well that it has been so fully improved. It gives us especial pleasure to learn that a very large proportion of the orders filled have been from farmers, and that the good work of orchard and shrubbery planting is going on most satisfactorily in all parts of the country. When visiting the Toronto Nurseries, the other day, we were surprised and pleased to see what an extensive clearing out had been made by the spring demands. Mr. George Leslie, jun., assured us that had there been on hand three times the stock there was, it could have been readily sold, so thick and fast did the orders come in. This is, no doubt, owing partly to the well-earned reputation of the nurseries in question, but it is also an evidence and result of the growing interest in fruit culture and rural adornment, of which there are so many encouraging indications on every hand.

To make Cuttings Grow

A correspondent of the *Wisconsin Farmer* says:—“I used to have a great deal of trouble to make currant and gooseberry cuttings or slips grow, until I tried the following plan: I boiled some potatoes until they were nearly done, and then stuck one on each slip and put it in the ground. Every slip sprouted and grew very well all summer, with but one or two exceptions. The idea of putting the boiled potatoes to the end of the cuttings was to furnish and keep moisture enough for them to grow, until the roots became large enough to gather this moisture and substance from the soil. I never tried it on grape cuttings, but do not see any reason why it would not do as well with grapes as anything else.”

APHIS BRUSH.—This very useful little implement was invented by the Rev. E. Bell of Colchester. It consists of two circular brushes, one inch in diameter, formed of very soft bristles, about three-quarters of an inch long. The handle is made of steel and is



elastic. Each leaf or shoot is brought between the two brushes, which are gently but firmly pressed together and drawn over the surface of the leaf, by which operation the aphides are removed without injury to the plant. It will be found very useful to those who keep plants in living rooms, or possess a small conservatory, but have no convenient means of subjecting their flowers and plants to fumigation with tobacco. The tediousness of the operation will, of course, prevent the use of the Aphis Brush on the large scale.—*Farmer (Scottish).*