

It Pays to have a Garden

But Save Labor by Planting It in Rows

First Prize Article

There can be no doubt in answering this question. Yes, emphatically. A garden properly managed is a means to provide a quarter of the food consumed during the whole year to say nothing of the pleasure derived from the production of table foods at all times, and especially at this critical period of our history when every ounce of food counts. The simplest garden for the farmer is one of about half an acre for ease in working let it be a long strip say 300 feet, so that it can be cultivated with a light one-horse cultivator. The cultivator is the most important implement in the garden. For a really successful garden the cultivator must be used every few days, this sounds like a large order but in effect takes only about an hour if done regularly.

\$40 Surplus from Half-Acre

The selection of a rich soil with a southern aspect is essential to success and makes the returns much larger than otherwise. Land that has been fall plowed is preferable and in most crops an early start is important. It is impossible to accurately estimate the amount of produce from a half acre lot as so much depends on the soil, the cultivation and the seed. Some lots would produce 400 per cent. more than others. In making a garden the nature of soil should be considered and the attention of producer. In my half acre I planted quarter acre potatoes and filled in the balance with a farmers' \$1.00 collection of seeds. I grew sufficient to supply a family of eight and sold over \$40 surplus stock, fresh from garden last summer. I find the collection is short in peas and beans, so advise the purchase of an extra quart of each.

Make a small hot-bed to start such seeds as cauliflower, cabbage, tomato and marrow and transplant when all danger of frost is over. Plant all crops in straight rows two and a half feet apart and always thin out plants so that they have lots of room to develop. Much of this soil will produce two crops in one season. Sow the spinach, lettuce, and radishes early and they will be off by the time the cauliflower is ready to plant out. One important thing is manure, good horse manure taken direct from the stable and plowed under makes a fine fertilizer and the wood ashes from the heater are excellent sprinkled on soil in growing period. The droppings from fowls are the strongest fertilizer and are especially good sprinkled along the cabbage bed just before cultivating.

From my half acre I stored for winter use 50 bushels of potatoes, 10 bushels of carrots, 8 bushels of beets and 20 bushels of turnips. I pickled a barrel of red cabbage, stored over 100 cabbage and have sufficient seed potatoes to plant this year.

From a financial aspect, I am sure the half acre produced me more value than five acres of any grain crop. From the home aspect, what is nicer than delicious fresh vegetables unobtainable at any price from the store. From the national standpoint is it not worth something to know in a spare half hour daily one has produced a year's food for several persons? Yes, from a dozen aspects it pays to have a garden and pays well.—W. J. Stibbards, Alta.

Speaks From Experience

Second Prize Article

From many years' experience, it seems to us to be one of most profitable and economic features of the board and kitchen bill to have access to a first-class vegetable garden, or to the products of one, every day in the year. No longer ago than yesterday we were dis-

cussing this matter over with an old farmer and his wife who came over for the afternoon. They have kept a vegetable garden in connection with their farming operations for over 40 years and consider it has been a great help in many ways, in the matter of every day living. The children seem to keep in better health; the hired help appear to be better satisfied with their board when they get liberal supplies of garden vegetables, they seem to keep in better heart, better natured and certainly do more and better work. "We think it lessens doctor bills," said they. It certainly adds to the pleasure and joy of eating.

Some years since it was our pleasure to listen to a forceful lecture by a lady professor, on domestic cookery. She got it off in rare style on the vast audience on the point of balanced rations for all classes of stock, horses, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. "But—but—yes, but how many in this vast crowd feed on balanced rations or ever think of feeding babies on balanced food-nourishing, succulent food! I once attended a big convention out West; was billeted in a refined, well-ordered home, had every kind of daintily fixed-up meals; at breakfast we had ham-and-eggs and all the compliments of a fancy meal, and, on top of all, mince-pie. There sat in a high chair, beside daddy, a lovely little tot of 12 months; when the pie was served, papa turned to the little darling and said 'will my girlie have a piece of pie?' A neat little nod and baby soon ate the mince-cake." Spreading her arms out and over the audience and lifting herself on tip-toe she exclaimed, "Ladies and gentlemen, do you believe, will you believe me that that child actually lived four years?"

This puts the food business of farmers in a nutshell. As far as our physical constitutions are concerned, we are animal and require well balanced nourishing food with right proportions of succulents such as parsnips, carrots, cabbage, turnips, cauliflower, beans, peas, squash, pumpkin, corn and so forth; not for a meal or two, but every day in the year. If the system does not get a regular allowance of such food, it soon gets out of order, goes wrong and the body begins to suffer, becomes dyspeptic. The digestive organs may be abundantly supplied with strong, nutritious food. It is too much food and the victim begins to semi-starve; the organs cannot assimilate enough of it to sustain vigor and strength. Such food needs to be complemented with large per centages of bulky, succulent stuff—garden products.

Both Fruit and Vegetable Garden

As far as our experience goes we cannot conceive of a farmer trying to get along without a fair sized fruit and vegetable garden. The two should be entirely separate. The fruit, currants, gooseberries, asparagus, horse-radish, raspberries, rhubarb and such stuff need to be in rows, five to seven feet apart in a plot by themselves or on one side of the vegetable garden. The vegetable section should be in two separate parts so that one part can be well fallowed one year, and the other part the next, and so on from year to year. This gives an ideal, clean, moist seed bed. Everything should be sown in long (our garden is 15 rods long) rows and far enough apart that as much culture can be done with a horse or hand cultivator as possible. The half sown this spring will contain three-eighths of an acre—half that would supply a family of five in vegetables for a year. We did not succeed in raising a good garden until we adopted the following plan.—J. E. Frith, Sask.

Does it pay to have a Farm Garden?

This question was asked some weeks ago by The Guide and prizes were offered for the best answers. The prize-winning replies appear on this page. The contributors agree that it pays well to have a garden. They are also unanimous that the garden should be planted in rows to save labor.

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