

Seasonable Paragraphs for the Gardener

CULTIVATION and watering are the two important operations in the garden during July. Thorough cultivation keeps down weeds and conserves moisture. It is a fact that a crop of weeds will evaporate more moisture from the soil than will be lost from the bare surface, provided the surface soil is kept loosened.

When watering give the ground a good soaking. A little may do more harm than none at all. It soaks down into the soil just far enough to make continuous capillary attraction, and when the surface soil becomes dry from evaporation the water rises from the lower levels, a continuous loss resulting.

Iris may soon be transplanted. This is an easily grown plant, having many delightful varieties.

Sweet peas are at their best in July. Keep the blossoms picked to prolong blooming. If a few very choice flowers are desired disbudding may be practiced and only the best buds allowed to mature. All seed pods should be kept picked off.

Don't think that because the increased growth which the flowers are making hides the weeds that weeding may be discontinued. Keep the garden cleaned up; it will look much neater.

Plants that have been in pots outdoors can be re-potted and established for winter flowers.

Some of the early planted flowers will be through blooming before the end of the season. There is plenty of time to sow seeds for late flowers.

Pansy and mignonette are two suitable flowers to plant just now.

Are you getting the maximum results from your garden by practicing a proper rotation? Take the time to make a good survey and plan to fill in the blanks that will soon be appearing.

Now is the time to study color effects and mass arrangements and find where improvements can be made for next year.

The pansies should be close picked for best results.

Seeds of perennials, such as hollyhock, columbine, larkspur, and foxglove may be sown now. As soon as large enough, transplant the seedlings to flats, protect them during the winter by putting them in a cold frame and covering with straw. Cover the frame with sash or shutters to keep the plants from becoming wet. They may then be planted out as soon as the garden is in condition in the spring.

After the raspberries have been picked prune the young, growing canes back to the proper height so that they will bush out well and not grow too spindly.

Keep a sharp look out for all insects.

Soap washes are effective for the sucking varieties while hellebore makes a suitable lunch for biting kinds.

If you have some fruit trees that have set heavily don't be afraid to thin. The increased size and the quality of the fruit will well repay you.

July is usually both hot and dry and the lawn should receive careful attention. Give plenty of water and do not cut too close.

Gladioli bulbs may be planted now for fall flowering.

When planting late annuals select a cool, moist place.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Do not despair because you were not able to get as large a garden planted this spring as you intended. There is still time to plant peas, radish, beans, Swiss chard, beets, lettuce, carrots, in fact any of the vegetables that do not require the full season for growth. More water will need to be applied than to the spring sowings.

Don't be tempted to lie back and take things easy just because the garden is all planted. The weeds never rest and the drought may be long.

Late celery may still be set out. Boston Market, of the green celeries, and Golden Self-Blanching are good varieties.

If cut worms are giving trouble try the poisoned bran remedy. Mix fifty parts of bran with one part of Paris green. Moisten just sufficient that the Paris green will adhere to the bran. Spread this mixture about where the cutworms are doing the damage.

Remember that potato beetles are partial to egg plant and sometimes to tomatoes.

Shading the lettuce with cheese cloth, newspaper or by some other means, will prolong its usefulness.

Are ants spoiling the lawn? Get some carbon bisulphide from a druggist, make a hole or two in the ant hill with a broom stick, pour in a teaspoonful of the carbon bisulphide and cover with heavy sacking. This substance is highly inflammable and should be kept away from the fire.

Place a shingle or bit of board under the muskmelons to prevent them rotting.

Tomatoes will yield better if the plants are tied to stakes and some of the buds pruned off.

Frequent hoeing forms a dust mulch that prevents loss of water from evaporation.

Vegetables, particularly cabbage, beans and cauliflower, are subject to wilts and rots which are caused by bacteria. Care should be exercised when cultivating, especially when the plants are wet, not to injure them, as the bacteria gain entrance through wounds. Insects also serve as carriers. Fungi may give rise to secondary diseases.

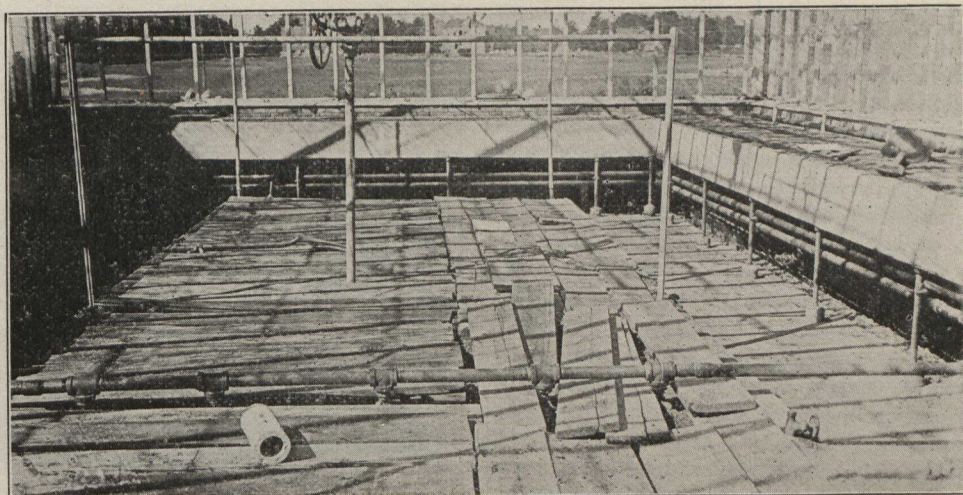
Nitrate of soda is a splendid stimulant to all vegetables.

Preparations will need to be made for blanching the celery. This may be done by placing boards on each side of the row or by heaping earth against the plants. Care must be taken to keep the earth out of the crown.

For bleaching a few individual plants, nothing is better than four inch drain tile. Tie the leaves loosely together with soft twine and slip the tile down over.

Don't leave the refuse from the vegetables already used lying about on the ground. Put it in the compost heap or get rid of it in some way. Refuse makes a splendid breeding place for insects and fungus diseases.

Be liberal with the water during the hot weather that may be expected.



A Method for Sterilizing Greenhouse Soil with Steam