

The Truck Garden.

STANDARD VEGETABLES.

The multiplicity of varieties in seed catalogs is confusing to the average buyer. The majority of seedsmen are often interested in introducing some new variety which they boom up above all others, or they may have an over stock of seed and hence say more than the facts really warrant. The following kinds are most largely grown and are generally safe to plant in any section, although some vegetables do better in one locality than in another:

Wax or butter beans, Black, Golden and Wardwell's Kidney Wax, green or snap beans, Red Valentine, Six Weeks and Early Mohawk, beets, Egyptian, Eclipse and Edmund's Blood Turnip, cabbage, Jersey Wakefield for early, All Seasons for medium and Flat Dutch or Drumhead for late; cauliflower, Snowball for early and Algiers for late; carrots, Danvers, Chantenay and Long Orange, celery, White Plume for early and Giant Pascal for late, New York Purple egg plant, sweet corn, Cory for early, followed by Crosby and Potter's Excelsior, and for late, Stowell's Evergreen and Country Gentleman, cucumber, White Spine and Long Green; lettuce, for cutting or loose heads, Black-seeded Simpson, for cabbage or head sorts, Deacon and Hanson.

Muskmelon, salmon-colored flesh, Emerald Gem, Delmonico and Paul Rose, green flesh sorts, Nettle Gem, Hackensack, Jenny Lind, watermelons, for early, Phinney's, Vick's and Fordhook Early, main crop, Kolb Gem, Seminole and Dixie, onions, Yellow Danvers, Red Wethersfield, Southport White Globe and Prizetaker; peas, early, American Wonder, Little Gem, Nott's Excelsior and Gradus; second early, Heroine and Telephone, main crop, Stratagem and Champion of England; spinach, Long Standing or Thick Leaved; radish, Scarlet Turnip, Long Scarlet, French Breakfast, White Vienna; squash, White Bush Scallop, Summer Crookneck, Boston or Orange Marrow, Hubbard, tomatoes, Dwarf Champion, Acme, Perfection; turnips, Purple Top Strap-leaved, Purple Top White Globe and Yellow Aberdeen.

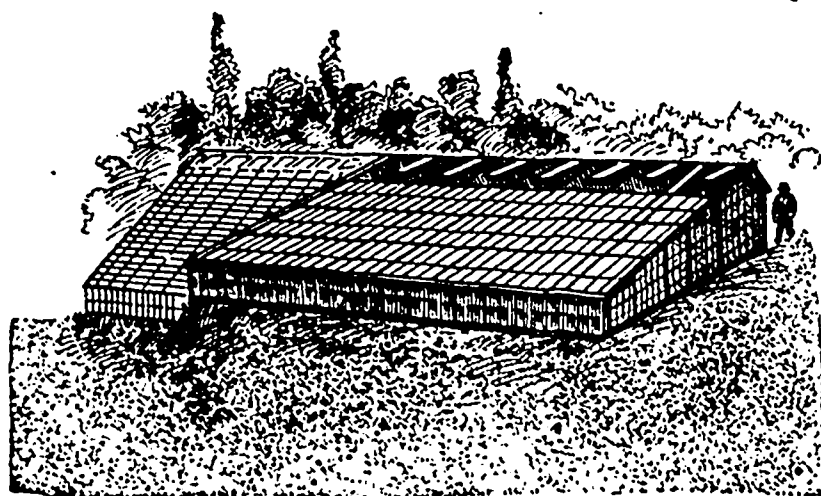
WHERE TO RAISE TOMATOES.

The best soil for tomatoes is a rich, deep, sandy loam. The next best is a deep, rich, gravelly loam, but if the gravel comes too near the surface, the crop in dry seasons will be light. Such soils are usually dry and well-drained in their natural condition, and take in the heat of the sun more than heavy soils. Muck soils may sometimes grow good crops of tomatoes if well drained; but they are apt to grow too much vine and the fruit does not set early and freely, so that the crop comes in late, and consequently is seldom profitable. Clay loam may be made in fair condition for a crop by good under drainage, using 3-in tile put in 3 ft deep and not more than 30 ft apart.

Heavy clay soils should be avoided, as they will not be profitable to grow tomatoes on. Those who have no other soil and wish to grow good tomatoes for family use should choose as dry a piece of land as they have and mark out the size they require. Then draw on four square yards of medium fine sand to each rod of land; also a load of well-rotted manure, and if it can be obtained, a load of muck. Spread evenly over the piece and work it in with a horse cultivator 8 or 9 in deep; plow it up and work again with harrow and cultivator until the soil and other material are perfectly mixed. Use the same land every year and work it a little deeper each year until it is worked 12 in deep, adding more sand if necessary, about half sand on such a soil would not be too much when well mixed.—[S. H. Mitchell, Ont.]

HANDLING THE MANURE.

Stable manure forms the bulk of fertilizer used by Long Island and Jersey truckers and all market gardeners who can get it at a reasonable price. The fact that it is bulky and expensive to handle has no weight with them. They know from years of experience that the results of its use in liberal quantities is positive, beneficial and profitable, and enables them to use the



Improved Vegetable Forcing House.

same land in hoed crops for years in succession without seeding to grass.

In a dry season on land which has been cropped for several years, there is not the danger of a crop burning up that is grown with manure as where only commercial fertilizer is used. The coarse, strawy part of the manure, or humus, is what gives it this value. The same results can be secured by plowing under a good growth of crimson clover, cowpeas or vetches.

Truckers near New York always compost the manure for one to six months. They buy largely by car or boatload and place it in immense heaps, packing it down firmly with the horses and carts. The composted manure gives quicker results, and does not produce such a rank, succulent growth.

The manure may be spread broadcast and plowed under, spread after plowing or harrowed in, or placed in the hill or drill before planting the seeds or setting the plants. All of these methods and combinations of them are practiced on good truck farms, some being better adapted to one crop than to another.

On land not too rolling the manure may be broadcast in the winter in order to help along the spring work. Not much will be lost in leaching or washing, and if spread now it will be possible to plow and plant at the earliest possible moment when every day counts big.

A MODERN FORCING HOUSE.

Market gardeners near large cities have found economy the watchword of success. Economy is applied to space, particularly where vegetables are grown under glass, which is about the only way they can now be grown profitably, or rather it is the most profitable branch of market gardening. And then it is only profitable where every inch of soil is at all times producing something.

Lettuce is the leading crop grown on benches under glass by market gardeners, and it is one of the most profitable, owing to the fact of its being a continuous one, as it is grown throughout the year. For what might be termed the first crop, the seed is sown about Aug 15 in the open ground or in cold frames. These are transplanted into houses about Sept 20 and the crop is ready for marketing by Nov 1. The first crop is considered the most profitable, as solar heat is all that is required to produce it. For a succession, seed is sown at intervals of two weeks in order to have plants at all times in readiness for setting, and it must be understood that all the houses are not all at the same time, but at such periods as will afford heads at all times.

When the plants are set, radish seed is sown in alternate rows, and between the plants in the rows; as these grow quickly, a crop is secured before the lettuce will need all the room. It requires from six to eight weeks to produce a crop after the plants are set. The yield of lettuce in a greenhouse is about three plants to the square foot, each crop, and three crops can easily be secured during winter. As the wholesale price is about 50c per doz. it is easy to estimate the value of a crop and the returns from a greenhouse during winter. The profits of a crop would be difficult to estimate, as how the business pays depends wholly upon the gardener, his attention to his business and his ability to manage it. The forcing

house portrayed herewith is a fair sample of what is in general use. Details as to various plans of forcing houses can be found in Prof Taft's book on Greenhouse Construction.

No One can garden successfully who attempts to force nature too far by disturbing the soil while it is mucky. It should never shine when turned by the slippery plowshare, or become compact when pressed firmly in the hand, as the hot sun that will soon follow must bake and harden the surface, rendering it lumpy and difficult to disintegrate. No amount of labor with cultivator or hoe will cure the evil which must inevitably follow if this plain, common sense rule be violated, and its observance is therefore of the greatest importance.—[E. F. Wetstein, Jefferson Co, Ky.]

For a Market Garden a rocky soil should be avoided, as deep cultivation is necessary and a clay subsoil is a drawback, as, unless underdrained, the land will be cold and late. The proper soil will have a sandy or gravelly bottom, and the location, if one may have a choice, will be with an eastern or southern exposure. The difference between a southern and northern exposure is often a crop a year, and because the land to the south is available earlier a first crop can be gotten out of the way in time to have a second follow.—[Miss Mary E. Cutler, Worcester Co, Mass.]

Cabbage Maggot—There is no known rule for protecting cabbage from this pest. It is certain that any treatment of the seed before sowing will not have any influence in doing it. Where we cannot raise the early crop because of trouble by the maggot, we can raise a late crop, by not sowing the seed until after the season is past of the fly that lays the eggs, which in this region is the latter part of May or early June. [Frank Wheeler, Middlesex Co, Mass.]

Endive is a particularly valuable vegetable, because it can be had at a time when such things are rare. The outer leaves must be tied up carefully to make the center of the head bleach. When this is done, the center is white and crisp at the end of a week or so and may be used for a salad as we use lettuce or may be cooked in various ways like spinach.—[Eva Gallard, Pa.]

Beans Quiet But Firm—Offerings are restricted and high prices prevent active bidding. Some talk of smaller imports from Europe, and this should prove a strengthening factor.

Artificial Hotbed Heat—Take as the crude materials, 500 lbs straw, 3 bu powdered quicklime, 6 lbs muriatic acid and 4 lbs saltpeter. Spread 3 or 4 in of forest leaves or old hay in the bottom. Upon that spread 8 in straw, tramp down and sprinkle with one-third part of the quicklime. Dilute the 6 lbs muriatic acid with 20 gals water and, by means of an old broom sprinkle the bed with one-third part of the solution. Make another layer of 8 in of straw, applying quicklime and the solution as before. Repeat for a third layer of straw, and upon it sprinkle the 4 lbs saltpeter dissolved in 30 gals water. Place the box in position, bank up outside, within the

box spread 3 in rich, finely pulverized earth and then put on the sash. A heat will soon be generated which will continue for two or three weeks.—[Exchange.]

The garden should, and to be made profitable must have the best spot on our farm. It is useless to expect choice vegetables planted on soil that is not in tilth and fertility to grow 80 to 100 bu corn p a. By all means make your garden the richest spot on your farm, give it all the composted manure you can, incorporate it well into the soil, protect it from chickens and look out for insect enemies and you will find it the most profitable crop on the farm, adding comfort and health to the family.—[Godfred Winkler, Mo.]

To raise early melons, cucumbers, etc, break the top of an egg shell and make a little hole in the opposite end with knitting needle. Fill shell with rich soil and place one seed in each shell. Put shell in a box of warm sand in the house. Transplant in settled warm weather.—[Mrs G. M. Latimer, Lincoln Co, Nev.]

Worms on cabbage can be prevented by dampening wood ashes with coal oil and sprinkling on the plants while wet with dew. Two or three applications may be necessary, but it will clean them out.—[V. W. Jones, Tarrant Co, Tex.]

CHAT WITH THE EDITOR.

For bulletin on keeping milk fresh 91 days, W. A. F. should write to the Director, W. Va. Exper Sta., Morgantown, W. Va.—E. F. S.: Alfalfa seed is sold by all our western seed advertisers.—Mrs S. H.: Many plans are printed in a bulletin by the Neb exper sta at Lincoln for making a homemade windmill. Write to the director for one; it is free.—E. C.: I know of no instance in which blamuth compounds are used for the preservation of elder. Borax, benzoic acid or salicylic acid are frequently used in preserving beverages, but their use is not to be recommended. Compost your hen droppings with about eight times their bulk of muck and keep under cover.—M. E. O.: Elephant Ears plants are sold by nearly all florists and seedsmen that advertise in F & H.—Mrs T. A.: Gopher exterminating remedies are sold by George H. Lee Co of Omaha, Neb.—Mrs P. M. C.: The climate at Great Falls is as severe as anywhere in Mont. The exper sta at Bozeman recommends as best apple, Duchess, Wealthy, Tetofsky and Yellow Transparent. Give winter protection by wrapping white paper or burlap around the trunk and stems.—Mrs Foss, Kan.: The Kan exper sta does not recommend sowing red clover on a run-down pasture. Any hard-wood ashes would probably do as well as hickory in your recipe.—J. McG.: Hay presses are sold by George Ertel Co of Quincy, Ill.; Keystone Mfg Co of Sterling, Ill.—W. H. M.: Reliable books on rose culture are The Rose, by Elwanger, price \$1.25, Parsons on the Rose, price 1, Secrets of Rose Culture, by Hatton, price 50c. Books on grafting and budding are: Thomas's American Fruit Culturist, price 25c; Practical Fruit Grower, by Maynard, price 50c. These books are all sold by the Orange Judd company.

ONE OF THE BEST among the many makes of separators is the Empire, made by the U S Butter Extractor Co of Newark, N. J. While the Empire costs no more than other separators, it is made of the very best material. This is evidenced by the fact that its sales in 1900 were 20 times greater than in 1895. Nothing is sacrificed to cheapness in its manufacture.

FENCING MATERIAL at this season interests a hosts of readers. Our friends should send to the Hartman Mfg Co of Elwood City, Pa. for their catalog. Not only are farm wire fences illustrated and described, but their well-known steel rod picket fence with ornamental steel gate is of interest. The steel rod fence is strong and durable, and while it costs no more than a wood picket fence, will greatly outlast it.

FENCING MATERIAL is much cheaper when bought direct from manufacturers. The catalog of the Advance Fence Co, Old street, Peoria, Ill., illustrated and fully descriptive, is free and will save money over retail prices. This enterprising and reliable concern does an extensive business through grange and other co-operative bodies, and is therefore in a position to fill every want.

A HANDSOME CARRIAGE can be bought for a very reasonable figure of the Elkhart Carriage and Harness Co of Elkhart, Ind. Their handsomely illustrated 150-page catalog shows the popular styles of carriages and harness. Prices are low, as business is done direct from factory to purchaser. The Elkhart Co are the largest manufacturers of carriages in the country, have been in business 27 yrs and are bound to give their patrons satisfaction.