

**School Gardens.**

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Why not have a school garden this year? It will furnish pleasant variety for you in your school work, give a new point of interest for the children and be a great aid in the nature work.

Select a site for the garden near to the school-house, and where the children will pass it as they come to and go from school. If no suitable land can be had on the school ground, ask a neighbor whose land adjoins for a small piece. Have it situated conveniently for the school, under the eye of the teacher and pupils, so that it will seem a part

it is better to dig only the beds and leave the walks green. Have the ground well manured, if possible, as this not only supplies plant food, but humus, which holds the moisture in a dry time. If manure cannot be obtained, commercial fertilizer or hardwood ashes may be substituted.

Unless the school ground is enclosed, the garden should be fenced to protect it from wandering stock, which might in a short time destroy the work of the season.

The garden may be laid out in rows, or plots. If it is small, planting in rows is preferable, as it economizes space. If there is plenty of room, plots four feet by eight feet, or larger, might be used



SCHOOL GARDEN AT OLD BARNS, COLCHESTER CO., N. S.  
(Courtesy of Education Dept., N. S.)

of the school. An arrangement could be made with the neighbor by which he would receive his "shares" of the product of the garden on condition of looking after it during the summer vacation.

The garden may be as small as two square rods, or as large as a quarter of an acre. Twelve feet by thirty-six is the size recommended for the schools of the State of Illinois by Professor Blair, of the State Agricultural College. Often the small garden is more satisfactory than the large one, as it is more easily attended and furnishes quite enough material for the average country school.

It is better to have the ground plowed in the fall, but a good garden may often be had on ground made ready in the spring. Having selected a site, get a neighbor to plow it for you, or if the garden is small, have the boys spade it. In the latter case,

with walks three feet wide between. It is advisable to have a carefully drawn plan of the garden before beginning to plant. Let each pupil submit a plan of his plot to the teacher for approval before work in the garden begins. Then each one will know what he is to plant, and where he is to plant it when he goes to the garden to work. This avoids confusion, and the drawing of the plan furnishes a good exercise in mathematical drawing.

One of the obstacles in the successful working of a school garden is the shortness of the growing season during which school is in session. When the garden is nicely started, the summer holidays come and no more school work can be done with the plants of the garden until late in August. On this account it is well to choose largely seeds which can be planted as soon as the ground can be worked