

HORTICULTURE

Seasonable Garden Work

STRAWBERRIES may be set out as soon as the ground works easily and the plants can be dug.

Small onion sets are just as good as large ones for growing bunch onions, and there are more to the quart.

Herbs that should be in every garden and that are easy to grow are mint, sage, and caraway.

Be prepared to spray the orchard this spring. Then do it at the right time. If you can't do this, better cut out the orchard.

Onions that have been frozen over winter must be used as soon as they thaw out. As soon as they get soft they begin to decay.

Eat two potatoes instead of one and use less meat. You will be better off and the soldiers will have more bacon. A few evergreens planted about the home this year will soon reach a size

Do not throw away hyacinth and narcissi bulbs when they are through blooming, but plant them in the garden or the flower border.

Sow radish seed with onion, parsnip, or carrot. They come up quickly and mark the row, making it easy to cultivate early.

Parsnips properly cooked are an excellent vegetable. They are easy to grow. Get fresh seed and plant them early. Cultivate well during the summer. They are not hurt by frost, either early or late.

Spiraea Van Houttei makes a good hedge plant that does not need clipping. Thunberg's barberry is perhaps better because it carries berries in the autumn. It is not a host plant for rust.

If your order of nursery stock comes before you are ready to plant, heel it in for a few days. Cut the bundle open and spread out the plants in a trench, packing the dirt well about the roots. It is a good plan to cover half or two thirds of the shrub in order that it may not dry out.

Clean-up for Slugs

THE common garden slug, this slimy, slow-moving, repulsive mollusk of our gardens, ornamentals, and lawns, promises to be unusually serious this spring.

Remedial measures are only partly successful against it. A general clean-up of all trash, crop remnants, bits of boards, etc., about the premises; the burning or destruction of grass along fence-rows and about the borders of fields followed by the application of air-slaked lime will do more than any one practice to control slugs. Many other insect pests occur in the same situations and will be destroyed at the same time.

If the clean-up is thorough, a poison bait, consisting of chopped-up leaves of some green succulent plant (kale, clover, lettuce, etc.), one quart; sirup, one tablespoonful; and white arsenic or lead arsenate, one level teaspoonful; thoroughly mixed, may be scattered in small heaps about cold frames and the borders of fields at planting time with beneficial results.

For best results with potatoes, land should be fairly rich. I use 20 tons per acre applied in the fall and plowed down. I have also found that potatoes will pay good profits on commercial fertilizer, provided a large enough application is given to make its effect felt. I have found last year that it took at least 600 lbs. of a 2-10 fertilizer per acre to make any appreciable difference in the yield. A thousand pounds, however, increased the yield and resulted in a better maturity. This works out at only four dollars per rod of row and a slight increase in the yield will easily pay for it.—Douglas Maynard, Lexington, Ont.

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