

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).The Home Vegetable Garden for Southern
Interior Sections of B.C.

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During 1914 British Columbia imported over \$475,000 worth of fresh and canned vegetables from other Provinces, and over \$418,000 worth from foreign points. With the exception of a few sweet potatoes, melons, etc., the greater portion of the foreign importations, and practically all of the importations from the other Provinces could have been produced within our own borders. While a portion of these importations is consumed by people who are not in a position to grow their own vegetables, a very large percentage is consumed by people who have land available which, with a little attention, could be made to produce enough vegetables for their own use and a market surplus.

Although fresh vegetables can be secured in their season in most towns, neither the farmer nor the man living in the suburbs can afford to pay the prices asked for these vegetables; and, furthermore, it is impossible to secure them as fresh and in such variety as one can from the home garden. Canned vegetables are often substituted where fresh ones cannot be secured, but, besides being more expensive, are neither as palatable nor as healthful as the fresh vegetables.

LOCATION

The home vegetable-garden should be situated as near to the house as conditions will permit. This will decrease the chances of neglect in the care of the garden and permit the fresh vegetables to be gathered without loss of time. If possible, a level area should be chosen. A south slope will produce earlier vegetables than a north slope, but the latter may give the best results with the main crop, especially where there is a shortage of moisture during the latter part of the summer. In windy sections a hedge or wind-break of some kind will be found valuable where early or tender crops are grown.

SOIL.

The ideal soil for a vegetable-garden is a deep, rich, well-drained loam. This cannot always be secured on a city lot or close to the house on a farm. Formerly too much stress has been placed on the soil and too little on its treatment. A clayey soil or a sandy soil may easily be made suitable for gardening purposes by the addition of barnyard manure, lime, or other fertilizer; hence, if the available soil is not just what is wanted, it can be improved by careful handling.

Low, wet soils and alkali soils should be avoided until they have been properly treated, as neither is congenial to young or tender plants.

SIZE.

The size of the garden should be limited to the smallest possible area that will produce the necessary vegetables. If too much land is set aside it will be neglected