

The Garden.

HOW TO GROW BIG SQUASHES.

My land is made in good condition, being heavily manured every year. It is of a gravelly formation with about 16 in. of clay loam on top. A 300-lb squash can be grown on any part of it by the following method of cultivation. For each hill I intend to plant, about April 1, take two good wheelbarrow loads of hen manure, and mix with four barrows of good soil taken from some other part of the lot; this is mixed a second time April 15. May 1, I add four barrows of well-rotted manure and mix thoroughly, then about May 18 make the hills and plant. Dig out a space 7 ft in diameter and 14 in deep, fill in my compost mixing, and with it some of the best earth which was thrown out, and when finished, the hill will be about 10 ft in diameter and 6 in higher in the center than the surrounding level. Then plant the seed.

Hills want to be about 20 ft apart; work the ground well until the plants begin to run. When about 3 ft long I rutch the ground all over for 20 ft in diameter around each hill with horse manure 3 in deep and stake the vines down with sticks to keep the wind from rolling them about so that they may root at every joint. It is of great advantage to keep the vine from fruiting as long as possible, by pruning all fruit bloom off until about the last week in July; this will give time enough to mature a 300-lb squash by Oct 1, for there must be a big vine to produce a big squash.

I practice utilizing a few of the first blooms that come, when I think the vine is strong enough to grow a good specimen, by cutting off some of the fresh false bloom, trim the corolla or flower leaf off, and rub the stamen in around the fresh fruit bloom, this is necessary when fruit bloom comes on a morning that is unfavorable for bees to do their work and it assures the setting of the specimens just where you want them; it also gives extra vigor to the growth of fruit to be well pollinized. When the first perfect specimens have set well, say 4 or 5 inches in diameter, cut all other fruit and blossoms off and nip the ends off vines and all bloom that shows twice a week so that the vine is not exhausted with the great quantity of false bloom that would naturally come. Now while the great growth of the squash is going on, I use liquid manure twice a week along three or four of the principal vines of each hill, often six pails to the hill if it is in a dry time. Great care must be taken to give plenty of water; for instance, in 1893 when I grew the great specimen that was the largest on exhibition at the World's fair it was a dry time with us in Ont., and having the advantage of the town water service, I sprayed each hill twice a week through Aug and early Sept., drenching the ground each time. [William Warnock, Huron Co., Ont.]

CULTIVATE EARLY AND OFTEN

After a garden crop is planted and fairly started in growth the most assiduous cultivation is necessary. No weed or blade of grass can be permitted to share its store of nourishment. The lawful plant, like a prudent sovereign, will tolerate no rival near its throne. For the cultivation of cabbage, potatoes, cauliflower, peas, beets, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, egg plant, peppers,

How to Grow Good Fruit.

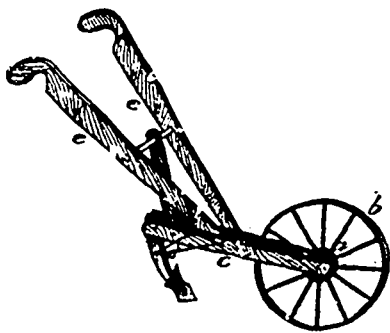
The superintendent of the Lenox sprayer company of Pittsfield, Mass., has delivered an address before the Lenox horticultural society at Lenox, Mass. The address bore chiefly upon spraying and general culture of orchard and field crops, how to do it, do it cheaply and good, and how to obtain the most profit from your labor in the easiest manner. The address is quite lengthy, about an hour's talk. Owing to other matters ahead of it we cannot publish it in this issue. Had this address been placed on the market in book form it no doubt would have sold at a good price. The full address, profusely illustrated, in pamphlet form, was intended to be sent free to fruit growers and owners of estates, free for the asking, but to prevent imposition by the curious and disinterested, the book will be sent to fruit growers or owners of estates inclosing 50 cents to the Lenox sprayer company, 21 West street, Pittsfield, Mass.—Adv.

etc., I use a fine-toothed, deep running cultivator, penetrating to a depth of 8 or 10 in until the plants have spread out a healthy growth of roots from 4 to 6 inches in length; then we stop deep cultivation, but endeavor to have the surface well-worked to a depth of from 1½ to 3 in, according to the character of the plant, using the small-toothed cultivator or hoe; thereby keeping the surface well-powdered, opening small crevices for the admission of the sun's rays and enabling the soil to absorb dews and rains. We continue this process until foliage interferes.

The results barring possible drawbacks of disastrous drouths or damaging storms are usually early crops and the best prices of the market. With us, lettuce, celery, turnips, beets, cabbage, cantaloupes and potatoes are off in grown very extensively as a second crop. The potatoes being planted between July 20 and Aug 10 generally result in an enormous yield within 10 weeks if cultivated under favorable conditions, often yielding 250 to 300 bu p a. and while the green vines are frequently killed by frost and potatoes are not fully developed, they do not sprout until late in the winter or early spring and are therefore excellent seed, even superior to the northern potato, as they grow more vigorously and mature earlier. Our soil is a brown limestone. [E. F. Weinstein to Nat'l Farmers' Congress.]

A HANDY GARDEN PLOW.

Any one with a knack for making things can make this plow, excepting perhaps the rim of the wheel and the shovel. The rim, b, should not exceed



HOMEMADE PLOW.

18 inches in diameter and should have eight small holes to nail spokes through. The hub, a, should be made from tough wood, 2 in thick and 4 inches in diameter. The wheel on my plow is from an old metal baby carriage. The two horizontal pieces, c, are 1x2 in by 2 ft. Shank for shovel, d, is 15 in long. The handles, e, are cut 1x5 in by 3 ft. The upright brace and round for handles to suit height and width it is desired the handles to be. The braces on shank are made from heavy wire looped for bolt on shank and fastened with large screws to horizontal pieces. The handles are bolted on the top of horizontal bars with ¼ in bolts. I made the shovel from an old ditching spade 3½ in wide and 6 in long cut across the blade and it was just the right shape.—[N. A. Clearwaters, Vermillion Co., Ind.]

HOW I RAISE EGG PLANT.

When setting plants, start in one corner of box with trowel and after the first plant is removed divide them evenly clear to the bottom of box, so as to get all the dirt have found it best to thoroughly soak the soil and let them stand a few hours; then the earth will stick to the roots better and can set with less trouble. I dig a hole with a spade so as to have plenty of room to fill in with loose moist soil. Set the plants considerably deeper than they are in boxes, tramp the earth firm but gently with one foot, then draw loose soil around plant with trowel; do not hill but leave ground level. I set plants 3 ft apart in the row, rows 4 ft apart.

My plants bear enormous crops. I think I have raised as high as 25 to the plant. The land must be rich to attain these results. When the seasons have been very dry, I have found that sprinkling a large tablespoonful of salt around the roots is of value, raking the ground with steel rake afterward. Do not let the soil get on the leaves, or heart of plants. Cultivate the ground once a week if it

is not too wet. I think it better to cut fruit than pull, so as to leave piece of stem on plant. They are not fit to eat when ripe; should be used when half or two-thirds grown. I find the New York Improved as good as any I have tried. I think if people knew how to prepare and cook egg plant they would be more generally used.—[William Box.]

IMPORTANCE OF PROMPTNESS.

Some vegetables are very slender and easily stunted in the earlier periods of their growth. If the soil is badly infested with weeds, it will be necessary to resort to almost daily cultivation during this most important period in order that the plant may have every chance to grow. The increased product will repay for all extra trouble taken or work given. Earliness is also very important. Early garden truck is a delicacy relished by all after the winter diet of meat. Especially is earliness desirable for the market. The earlier the product is marketed, generally, the better the price received. Every farmer's garden should have a variety of vegetables. Not only should onions, beans, radishes, peas, lettuce, potatoes, cabbage, corn and pumpkins be grown, but enough space should be had for strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, cauliflower, tomatoes, mangoes, egg plant, etc. It should not be left to the wife to cultivate mealy, the man of the house putting in an odd hour occasionally only. But turn the tables or at least let the husband do fully half of the work. A better garden will be the result, a better feeling will permeate the husband's morals and better health will be the lot of all the family. A good garden is a wonderful saving of doctor's bills. Try it and see.—[A. N.]

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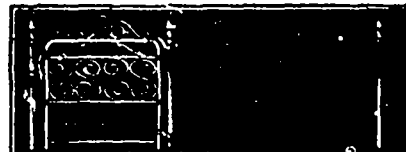
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