

## AMATEUR GARDENING.

BY W. S. TURNER, CORNWALL, ONT.

THE size of my garden plot is about 100 feet square. I commenced work by ploughing the sod under, and putting in corn and potatoes as a first crop. I saw there was a goodly quantity of quack grass, and having read of the experience of others in the *Rural New Yorker*, the *CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST*, and other journals of that class, I came to the conclusion that my best partners must be the hoe, rake and perseverance.

I used these three articles with such good purpose that the following spring I saw very little of my old enemy the quack grass; though I was not quite so successful with the nut grass, and which even yet troubles me some.

The second spring, having made my soil a little mellower by cultivation and old manure, I put in ten apple trees, some gooseberries, black and red currants and raspberries. I now began to aspire to a few vegetables, such as beets, turnips, mangolds, sweet corn, peas, beans, tomatoes, celery, etc.

I cultivated between the fruit trees just as if I did not have any. I soon found that my family could not begin to consume the good things I grew, so I gave away some, and as that did not pay very well, I began to sell, so my little garden began to pay expenses, and more so when my celery began to be fit to sell, for celery, as some of you are aware, comes in as a good second crop.

The third spring, my garden, being in a proportionately better condition, I aspired a little higher, and put in one or two grapevines and a few strawberries, more currants and gooseberries. I find there are some things I can grow to better advantage than others, for I believe in making use of every foot of ground and taking out of it all I can get; and it is surprising what one can take out of a small piece of ground, well cultivated, well manured, and well studying the demands and requirements of each variety of fruit or vegetable. Now, for instance, take a tomatoe plant, it will take up about the same space as a hill of potatoes, and will produce, on an average, three times the value; true, it requires a little more care and cultivation, but the potato bugs will not trouble it until all the potato vines are dead. I will just say here that it is necessary, if you want extra fine tomatoes, to train them to one or two stalks by nipping off the laterals or small branches that grow out just above the leaves, and tying the one or two leaders to a stake, using a soft string for the purpose.

Some gardeners assert that poor soil is best for tomatoes, but that is not my experience. I give them good soil, rotted manure, and a sprinkling of wood ashes during the growing season.

I would here put in a protest against our farmers selling their wood ashes to enterprising Yankees