

Farm and Garden

For the CANADIAN FARMER :
Vegetable Garden.

Very much credit is given, and justly so, to the vegetable garden, but in many instances the credits show a small margin of profits on the labor employed since by the generally prevailing plan nearly all the work is manual hand labor, which is often very scarce at the proper season. The old established plan of a garden is a square plot varying from six to eight rods on the sides, with regularly laid out walks and square plots garnished with rows of currant bushes along the principal walks, which divide the garden into small beds that can only be cultivated with the spade or hoe, an operation that requires much time and labor, when, if the same quantity of land were laid out along the side of a ten acre field, a boy with a team and plow could turn it over ten inches deep in as many minutes as it would take days in the small garden plot, and the work be more thorough by the plow than the spade. Everyone knows how work hurries in spring and fall, and how the digging of the garden can be done only imperfectly and at odd times and often when the land is not in the best condition to work, which must injure the succeeding crop which will certainly be the case if the land be wrought when it is wet, which is often unavoidable under the system or remain undone till too late. In some instances, for economy sake, a few plum or cherry trees are planted in the vegetable garden, which is all right for the trees, but all wrong for the garden crop since the trees will shade the ground so as to prevent dews and showers from getting to the ground, and, leaving this aside, a full crop of vegetables cannot be grown at the same time.

To render a permanent garden enclosure profitable and satisfactory to the farmer, the old-fashioned arrangement can be modified by laying out the ground in a way something in this way: Make the garden as long as convenient, say ten rods, at least so as to make it convenient to work with a horse, and lay out one or two permanent roads wide enough for a wagon the whole length so that manure may be hauled on without tramping the cultivated ground, and if a gate, or panel of movable fence, be at each end so that the wagon can enter at one end and go out at the other all the better. A row of currant bushes or other small fruit can be planted along the road allowance, and the tilled part be cultivated with a horse both in preparing the ground and after cultivation, if the sowing and planting be done in drills as it should be, when very little hand labor will be needed.

For our part we have long since abandoned the system of planting in beds and hand cultivation, and raise our garden crops in the field with field roots by selecting the outside of the field for the earliest sort, as onions, parsnips, lettuce and beets. Manure the land, work it early in the fall, and if the ground be dry late in the season plow in high narrow ridges, which will get the frost to pulverize it before spring. As soon as the land becomes dry and a little warm, harrow, roll and work fine and plant in drills the whole length of the field, when, with very little care, a horse and drill harrow can do all the work thoroughly and much more satisfactory than any hand labor. Of course, there is one advantage that the garden has over this plan and that is that the permanent garden can be more enriched, but the extra labor that can be put on the field will render a crop sure in the field every time, although a garden wrought by horse power has advantages over the field, since asparagus, rhubarb and such can be cultivated in the garden and not in the field. M.

For the CAN. FARMER :
Weed Seeds In the Stubble.

Rich land, like a fertile brain, will not lie idle, but will always produce something useful either for itself or the owner. By the natural laws of creation the surface of our globe is continually undergoing change of its elements into organized life, which produces and reproduces itself; and it is the province of the farmer to guide those changes so as to raise the original elements into a higher sphere by converting them into animal organisms; in other words, by training the dead elements of soil into components of plants that will furnish food for man and beast, by destroying weeds and encouraging useful plants. A weed has been truly called a plant out of place. In a state of nature without man weeds could not exist, since all vegetable life serves one end that is to use and replace the elements of soil as well as to seize the elements floating in air and return them to the soil. But it is our duty to direct these natural changes so as to produce plants for food instead of those that are not palatable and nutritious, as it takes as much natural force and elements to grow a crop of weeds as a crop of food. The farmer must discourage the one and foster the other, plant and cultivate the grain and grasses and extirpate the weeds. The last can be done on the fields by getting the weed seeds to grow and then turning them under to add vegetable matter to the soil, which, by a little extra labor, can be done in stubble fields in the fall by the free use of the gang plow and harrow. He, who can get a good green crop on his

stubble field to plow under, adds very much to the fertility of his soil, but if the after growth be a crop of clover, turnips or rape, he may reap immediate benefit in the form of beef or butter, but if of weeds his return will come the following year. Hence, in the economy of nature and correct system of tillage, weeds are useful to enrich the soil after harvest or on the bare fallow when no better can be got to occupy the ground since the atmospheric fertility without their aid would in great part be lost to that field.

So much said for the weeds, let us see how we can make them best serve our purpose, for it is with us as it was with the hungry traveller when other fruits fail welcome haws. The great bulk of weed seeds ripen about or soon after harvest, and by the use of the reaper and horse rake the seeds are shed and scattered. If allowed to lie on the surface very many may not sprout, but are plowed under to be in place to start in next year's crop, and struggle with the grain for a share of its food, and, as they are mostly of low growth, take more nourishment from the soil than grain or grass. Annual weeds are easily managed by gang plowing and making a fine seed bed soon after harvest; all or nearly all the weeds will make a good growth before it will be time to do the fall plowing. When the ground and weather are dry success may be attained by harrowing after the gang plow and rolling. Where clover seed can be got a good plan is to sow a light cast with the grain in spring, which will give a good crop to turn under and will shade to death many other weeds.

M. McQUADE.
Egmondville.

Thistles.

Some of the farmers of New York have instructed one of our contemporaries as follows:

"The surest way to successfully fight the Canada thistle was to tackle it on its first appearance, and not allow a single stalk to exist an hour after being discovered. When they suddenly reappear, as they will sometimes in large numbers, cut them off close to the ground, and just before a rain fill the hollows of the stalks with salt, and one dose will be enough. Afterwards dig or plow up the ground thoroughly and remove every particle of the stalk and root, for bear it in mind that a piece no bigger than a finger-nail will produce a shoot, and if this be let alone for a couple of years it will increase fearfully, and will a hundred times over add to the labor of their extirpation. Last fall we noticed half-a-dozen stalks in our garden, the seeds of which were doubtless brought in the hay purchased from up the country; but they were promptly cut off before the seed matured, the

stalks filled with salt as recommended, and thus far we can see no signs of any portion of them having escaped."

Advantage of a Loose Soil.

That a loose soil is protection against ordinary drowth has been repeatedly proven. Being a non-conductor of heat it acts as a mulch and keeps the soil damp and the roots cool; whereas, the hard, unplowed land is a good conductor and affords no resistance to the access of the injurious heat of the sun. Dew in abundance is very valuable to young plants, and its formation is facilitated by stirring the soil. If any farmer will observe in the morning in his flower or kitchen garden, he will see that dew is often abundantly formed upon the loosely cultivated beds, while it is totally absent in the hard walks, and this is just what happens on a much larger scale in the fields. Moreover, when the formation of the dew is so great as to be everywhere, that upon the loose soil is absorbed and carried to the roots of the plants, while that upon the hard soil is quickly evaporated and lost.—*Planter's Journal*.

Examine the newly threshed wheat after it has been put in the bins for a few weeks, and if damp or heating it should be run through a fanning mill to cool and air it; or it should be spread on a barn floor and shoveled over occasionally. A good way to examine wheat in bins is to have a stick like a fork handle constantly stuck its length down into the grain; by pulling it up and feeling it with the bare hand, any heat can at once be detected.

The *American Cultivator* says: There is a growing disposition among fruit growers to believe that pine trees are mixed through an orchard it will have a beneficial influence in driving away the moth of many of the destructive insects which prey upon apples and apple trees. It is supposed to be strong effluvia issuing from the turpentine of the pine. Others contend that the pine, in all its varieties, throws off in the grove constantly in cold weather a large amount of warmth or caloric, which has a favorable influence on surrounding trees during our long and severe winters. In fact it is contended by some scientific authorities that all live trees have this influence, besides the protection which they impart as wind-breaks. It is claimed by medical writers that the influence of the turpentine in pine groves is highly beneficial to the health of the human race, as well as to animals which dwell in well-ventilated pine groves.

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