



### The Vegetable Garden.

There is a great deal of comfort to be derived from a well stocked and well kept vegetable garden, and the variety which is thus furnished for the table, is not only agreeable but healthful. Those who have been accustomed to gather their daily supply from their own garden, would hardly credit the statement that should give the number of families in Canada, living on farms of many acres without a garden, whose only vegetable is the potato, with such "greens" as the children may gather along the roadside, or in the corners of the fences. There is so much to be done on the farm that the garden is forgotten or neglected. Besides this, the farmer is so accustomed to the help of the horse in all his operations, that he seems to feel, when he goes into the garden to weed and hoe, that he is losing during that time the labor of his horse. But there is no necessity for keeping the garden in such a very little space that the horse cannot work there too. By proper management, the work of the garden, can be made part of the work of the farm. A little more ground devoted to this purpose will enable the surface and sub-soil plow to do the work of the spade, and by so arranging the ground that the cultivator can be used, a very large part of the work can be performed much in the same way as the cultivation of a field of turnips, potatoes, or corn. The vegetable seeds could be sown so that the cultivator might pass in every other space, the two rows being eight or twelve inches apart according to the growth of the vegetable, and then a space of thirty inches, for the cultivator, to be followed by two more rows and then another wider space. In this way the labor of the garden might be great measure performed by horse power.

In selecting a site for a garden, it is very desirable to secure a piece of ground that is thoroughly drained and has a warm sunny exposure. The chief value of vegetables consists in their making a quick, succulent growth. Then they are tender, sweet, and delicious. If the soil be loose, warm, moist and rich, there will be no difficulty in obtaining the very choicest productions. If the soil be wet, it will be cold, and no amount of fertilizing material will compensate for injury done by the surplus water. In such a cold bed the seeds often die, and when they do vegetate, the growth of the plant is slow, and instead of a tender juicy vegetable, it becomes woody and full of tough fibre. And when a wet soil does at length dry out under the influence of the summer's sun, it bakes hard, and becomes very dry, and quite unfitted for sustaining rapid vegetable growth. Let the garden then be well drained, the soil well pulverized and enriched, and the plants well cultivated and it will be a source of comfort and continued gratification.

One of the first things that can be done in our gardens, is the sowing of peas, and of these there are many choice and truly delicious varieties, far exceeding for table use any of our farm field peas, that are sometimes used for want of a better. These flourish best in a rich loam, and are usually sown in double drills some four inches wide, thus giving room between the rows for the rods or brush to be placed, upon which the vines are to run. The branches of our beech trees make excellent bushing and can be easily saved, when cutting wood in the winter, of proper size for this purpose. It is recommended to cover the peas to the depth of four inches, and bush them at the time of sowing, that the support may be ready when needed. When the plants are about two inches

high, the earth should be drawn up to them and during the season of growth be frequently stirred. If the peas are soaked in warm water for five or six hours before planting, they will make their appearance above ground much sooner than when planted dry.

Of the many varieties now cultivated we may mention the Tom Thumb, it being an excellent dwarf variety, growing to the height of only eight or ten inches, and on that account not requiring any bushing: it also matures very early. Daniel O'Rourke is a much esteemed early kind, it grows about two and a half feet high and is very prolific. Bishop's Long Pod is but a little later, grows a foot and a half high and is of fine quality. Succeeding these in time of maturity is the Champion of England, a universal favourite, growing to the height of four feet, a great bearer and very fine flavoured. For a late variety the Large White Marrowfat is generally grown, and much esteemed. With these sorts planted all at one time there will be a continual supply of this delicious vegetable for a long time.

Beets can also be sown as early as the ground can be worked. A deep and rich sandy loam is the best suited to their culture. The seed is usually sown in rows, eighteen inches apart and covered to the depth of two inches. After the plants make their appearance it will be necessary to thin them out, so that they will stand about six or eight inches apart in the row. The seed will vegetate much more freely if soaked in warm water for twenty-four hours before planting. The ground should be kept loose and well stirred during the summer. The best early variety is the Basano or Turnip Beet, which has proved to be always sweet and tender. The young plants that are pulled up in thinning out, make excellent greens when cooked "tops and all." The Basano will keep well all winter, and with some is the only variety grown, but the one usually cultivated for winter use, is the long blood red, a fine smooth sort, quite sweet and tender. Henderson's pine apple is a new, deep crimson, compact topped variety, very highly commended by those who have given it a trial.

Carrots and parsnips may be sown early, and both thrive best in a deep, sandy loam. The seed is sown in drills, and thinned out to four or six inches apart.

The best early variety of carrots is the Early French Shorthorn, very tender and fine flavoured. It does not grow as large as the Long Orange, nor is it of the same spindle like form, but terminates more abruptly. The long orange is the kind usually sown for a general crop, and is cultivated as a field crop for the purpose of feeding to horses and milch cows for which uses it is very profitable.

The Hollow-crown Parsnip is generally esteemed as the best variety, for both the garden and farm. There is a new aspirant for public favor called the Student, said to be the result of ten years of selection and cultivation by Professor Buckman, of the Royal Agricultural College, and of a particularly sweet and delicious flavor.

Tomatoes require to be sown in a hot-bed or in a box in the house, in order to get them forward sufficiently early. When all danger of frost is past they can be transplanted into the open ground. They flourish best in some sunny spot, sheltered from the north and west winds, and do not require a very rich soil, for in such soil they grow too luxuriantly, making too much vine to mature fruit early. The Early smooth Red Tomato is the best early kind, and the large smooth red is the best for a general crop. These seem after all to be the best, though there are many other kinds, some of which produce very large irregularly shapen fruit, very inconvenient for culinary use. The upright tomato has been much commended as being self supporting, the other sorts requiring to be kept from the ground by a support of bush or a frame work of lath; but we have found it to require the support of a strong stake, and that the fruit has not matured sufficiently early to make it anything of an acquisition in this climate. Lester's Perfected is of a light red or pink color, very solid and containing less seeds than the other sorts, and is much esteemed by many.

### The Strawberry.

BEFORE THE TORONTO GARDENERS' IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY, MAY 1861.

The strawberry is not only the most wholesome and delicious of all our small fruits, but is more easily, and on that account more universally grown than any other.

It belongs properly to northern latitudes, and though very little known in the southern hemispheres is found in the temperate latitudes of both Europe, Asia, and America.

The soil best adapted for growing fine strawberries is a deep rich loam rather approaching to clay than otherwise, thoroughly and deeply worked and enriched with plenty of strong manure. Sun and light should also have free access to wherever strawberries are grown for whenever under the influence of shade, whether occasioned by surrounding objects, or by being too closely crowded together themselves, it will be found, that the fruit is much more acid than it would be if grown under more favorable circumstances.

The finest, both plant and fruit, as a whole I think that I ever saw, were grown on a very stiff piece of land, deeply trenched and thrown up into ridges in the fall, allowed to remain so all winter subject to the action of the frost, then levelled down in spring and a coating of manure dug in: nothing could be finer than their appearance when I saw them the following summer.

The strawberry is best and most easily cultivated in rows two feet apart, and from 18 inches to two feet apart in the rows, thus allowing plenty of space for the roots to feed in, and also, a sufficiency of light and air for the leaves and fruit. A crop of early york cabbages which do not occupy much space might be grown the first year after planting between the rows—that is of course only necessary where it is an object to make the most of the ground. The runners should be kept off by chopping them out, three or four times a year, and every fall dig in some short manure between the rows, and until the plants get thoroughly established, cover every winter with a slight covering of either leaves or litter. The object of this covering is principally to prevent the plants being heaved out of the ground in the spring, when the frost is leaving. Preparations ought to be made every four years, at the furthest, for removing the bed or field, which ever it may be, and that could be done by allowing the plants the last year to throw out some runners, and cutting off all except those immediately up the centre of the space between the rows; then the following spring thin them out to the proper distance, and dig or plough the old plants under. Cleanliness and thorough cultivation of the soil are the most essential requisites to ensure success in growing strawberries. By keeping these ends in view, and by having a due regard to the kinds planted, no one can well fail of being amply repaid for any labour they may bestow on this grateful and luscious fruit. It would be folly for me to attempt to enumerate the many kinds of strawberries grown, their name is legion, and each one of them has its advocates. Were I planting, I should confine myself to two or three kinds—perhaps the following, Triomphe de Gaud, Wilson's Albany, and Elton or Frogmore late Pine for a late kind. I have placed them here as they rank in my opinion in reputation. Triomphe de Gaud first, then Wilson's Albany, afterwards the Elton or Frogmore late Pine.

It is pretty generally conceded I believe, that the American seedlings are better adapted to our climate than the varieties which originate in Europe. Much has been said about the Sir Harry, and Wizard of the North, both I believe perfect mammoths in size, but I have never yet seen either of them doing much good here. In short the Triomphe de Gaud is as good a berry both for size and flavor as the most fastidious need require.

They are all of course propagated by runners, except the bush Alpines, which are increased by division of the roots.

### Strawberries.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR, I planted in 1861 seven rows of strawberry plants, of 11 in each row, making in all 98. The rows were 18 inches apart, and the plants were 12 inches apart in each row, making the plot about 10 1/2 x 14 feet. Last season we picked from this plot 40 quarts of strawberries. The plants were Wilson's Albany Seedlings. Can any of your readers beat this? Yours, &c., C. L.

Wolford, April, 1861.