

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Market Gardening.

Constant enquiries on market gardening matters lead me to believe that a few practical articles on this topic will have some interest to our readers. Nearly all these enquiries are from owners or lessees of small places, near our smaller cities and towns, who cannot depend upon farm crops for a support, and are already engaged in growing fruit and vegetables, or are hoping to do so, and are seeking means and methods whereby to make a small farm yield a large farm's income. Having had a similar experience from a similar beginning, I shall write with particular reference to the wants of this class, not only because they constitute a large portion of my readers, but also because I think they find but little in current gardening literature that is quite suited in their wants.

All the recent works on market gardening which have had so large a circulation and sale, have been written from experience had entirely in the New York market, where the demand is almost insatiable for every class of vegetables, rents high, and labor cheap, and large capital is employed in the business, and, therefore, are not always safe guides for our beginner, with whom the demand for many kinds will be uncertain, land is comparatively cheap, and labor scarce and high, so that horse work must be the main reliance. For a ten acre lot, near New York, besides the ownership of the land, a cash capital in hand of \$3,000 is the lowest to be thought of, and yet our beginner quite likely has not more than \$500, and probably less, and yet with this does, and may hope for success. They all proceed upon the supposition that the beginner is already a capitalist, while our beginner is only hoping and seeking at an early day to become one.

If he has been reading considerable upon the subject of market gardening, he has probably received some impressions of which he should at once rid himself. He has probably judged from the space given them in many books and papers, that early cabbage and celery will be his most profitable and important crops, while he will doubtless find that in his provincial market the demand for them will be so light that they will constitute but a small part of his business, and when he considers the labor, capital, and risk involved in the crops, he will often find them not the most profitable. Nine out of ten beginners, in country gardening must be cautioned against placing their main reliance upon these two crops.

Again, while he can with confidence look for a large return for his labor and capital, he ought not to expect it to equal those received from lands of five times the value of his, and upon which five times the capital has been expended, and near a market much better than his own.

On the other hand, he has read much on which he should think and ponder long and deeply, especially what pertains to heavy manuring, thorough tillage, and double cropping, for these are absolute essentials to success.

The soil, aside from an accumulation it may already have on hand, is merely a medium to convert fertility into vegetation, and it but little is put into the hopper, only a small grist will be received. In other words, if you do not realize the importance of, or cannot procure manure, it is worse than useless for you to engage in the business.

Then, too, the soil must receive high tillage, both to give it that excellent tilth and friability that every garden should have, and also as another form of manuring. The atmosphere is not only the great source of moisture, but also of fertility, and the soil is made up of little mouths ready to absorb both, and the greater the number of these you give in opportunity to get their fill, the larger will be the crop. Tillage, therefore, is not only tillage, but is also manure, and you cannot give too much of it, and the best kind is that given by a cultivator, with a horse in front of it.

But not only should the land be constantly worked, but it should also itself be constantly working, and thus, produce at least, two crops a year. To successfully do this, you must be on the watch to get your crop in at the earliest moment, and also to get it off, to work it early and late, to get it into market early in the season, and early in the morning, and in general, about everything to be on time.

These are some of the things positively necessary for success in gardening.

I would advise no one to engage in market gardening at once. Not because I fear he would not raise good crops, for I have known parties unfamiliar with even the simplest horticultural practices, with the help of reading only, guided by good sense, to raise as good crops the first season as old gardeners, but because he will not know what crops to raise, nor how much of each. Books and papers can teach

him how to raise them, but only an experience in selling, and an acquaintance with his market, will teach him what and how much. Enquiry and observation must be his guide the first year. For the first year, at least, be very shy, and sparing of perishable crops, and those demanding greatest outlay of manure and labor, and it will then be safe to set aside from five to ten acres for gardening purposes. Planted to vegetables in the proportion they are usually demanded in country markets, three loads of fifteen or sixteen years, with the proprietor's help, and some extra assistance in picking and in weeding, can usually do all the work in a garden of the latter extent. For the same amount of land one team will be sufficient, and one horse can be spared every forenoon to go to market. As the garden enlarges, I have found need for one more horse for every eight acres, and to keep it in proper condition the same number of horses should be kept busy hauling manure all winter, and spare days during summer.

Tools.

While it is true that labor-saving implements are desirable, yet led on by the loud claims of holders of patents, a beginner is apt to be extravagant in the purchase of such. A garden seeder is perhaps a necessity. Holbrook's has given me the best satisfaction. Aside from this, all the tools imperatively needed, are either found on every well managed farm, or the proprietor can quickly make them.

To the gardener, the blunt ends of the teeth of a harrow are almost as serviceable as the points, especially when the ground is fall of long manure, or rubbish. An excellent implement for level working the rows, while both the plants and weeds are small, is made by inserting 15 or eighteen drag teeth of which the points have been flattened and bent forward into the form of an ordinary A shaped cultivator.

To prepare land for fine seeds, and, in fact, for most any garden use, a clod crusher is convenient. For our prairie soil we find a "planker" sufficient. This consists simply of two heavy planks, nailed side by side, to the transverse cleats of which, at their intersection, the whistle-trees is attached. The line of draft elevates the front of this enough so that the lumps pass under, instead of being pushed ahead of it, and the weight of the driver on the planker crushes and fines them nicely.

Perry's scarifier is not a positive necessity, and yet is very serviceable, and can be put to a great variety of uses. It seems to me unnecessarily costly, and demands a strong horse to properly manage it all day. Still I shall keep mine in pretty constant use till I find something better. Miner's sub-soil plough is a very cheap, and very serviceable implement where deep stirring is to be done.

Sales.

I have had experience in shipping to commission men in Chicago, in wholesaling to green grocers at home and in retailing from my own waggons, on a daily route quite like a milk-man. I am very decided in my opinion that the latter is the most profitable and satisfactory.

Shipping to distant market is very rarely profitable, and always risky. First, the expenses are heavy—careful packing, cost of packages, exorbitant freight and commission, all come from the lowest wholesale prices, often of a flooded market. Then, again, even with the greatest care in packing, unfavorable weather, bad handling and storage, will cause large quantities to heat and spoil, and then you not only lose the crop, but add thereto all these expenses, and an additional charge for carting them to the river. Whereas, with our method of marketing, we avoid all these expenses, and obtain the highest retail price, and never yet failed to sell our crop.

Sales to green grocers can often be made to advantage, and if the gardener has not a full variety and supply to keep a wagon running, it may be the only course open to him, but in this case, as in many others, the middlemen claim the lion's share of the profits, and as soon as the market suffers a glut they do not want your crop at any price.

And just here is one of the great advantages of selling direct to the consumer—that that you not only secure your own, and the middleman's profit to yourself, but you do have a certainty of a market at paying rates. For, however flooded the market may be, your patrons know they can rely upon your waggons to supply them, and therefore will not buy elsewhere.

Moreover, with most crops it costs nearly as much to wholesale a load as to retail it. Last season one of my waggons was devoted entirely to wholesaling to grocers, while the other two each had a retail route among hotels, boarding-houses, and private families, and the horse and driver of the former could do but little more than the latter, for, though home before noon, the half day was spoiled for work, and upon the whole, considering the exactions and deductions

constantly insisted upon by dealers, it was not at all satisfactory.

I am very strenuous upon this matter of sales, for upon this everything else depends. It is the key-stone of the whole business. No matter how good crops are grown, if they are not well marketed, they are a delusion and a loss. And I am very confident that direct sales to the consumer, from your waggons, is the true method, and that, to pushing, wide awake men, who will manage a garden prudently, and market its produce in this manner, it cannot fail to prove a mine of wealth well worth working. It makes returns from its crops quickly—some 40, and many in 90 days from planting, maturing entirely in one season, they are not subject to winter killing, and very rarely are there heavy losses. In fact, large losses are not very apt to occur from the nature of the business, for your investment being scattered among a good many crops, the business becomes a species of insurance, because what proves detrimental to one crop favors another. If it be too dry and warm for celery and cabbage, it will promote the crop of tomatoes and vines. If too wet for early corn, it will help the peas, potatoes, &c.

Taken all together, I think it certainly affords more pleasure and profit than any branch of farming. To parties already engaged in fruit growing, it presents special claims, while it certainly makes great promises to any one who loves the tillage of the soil.—J. B. Root, in *Fruit Recorder*.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Among the Roses.

At the Crystal Palace Rose Show.

The best rose in the show was the Baroness Rothschild. Perhaps having heard that her supremacy among the light complexioned roses was to be disputed by a stranger, Madame Lacharme, she may have taken extra pains with her *toilette*, but, be this as it may, she eclipsed all rivals. The *débutante* referred to is a belle, nevertheless, and a great addition to our light-colored flowers. Among other blondes, Marquis de Montmarie, Mesdames Bravy, Rivers, and Vidot, Mdlles. Bonnaire and Virginal were excellent. Nymphets is sometimes pretty, but it is papery in substance, and (to quote an old Yorkshire farmer) "flothy" in form.

Of pink and blush roses, the best were, Souvenir d'un Ami (shown in admirable form by Rev. G. Arkwright), La France, Monsieur Noman (as exhibited by Mr. Cranston), Marguerite de St. Amand, Centifolia rosea, Mdlle. Thérèse Levet, Marquise de Castellane, and Princess Mary of Cambridge. Of a deeper hue, our dear old friend John Hopper, Edward Morren, Louisa Wood, Countess of Oxford, Madame Clemence Jougneaux, Dupuy Janin and Vicomtesse de Vesmes, were excellent. Of a yet darker and more crimson complexion, Dr. Andry, Ferdinand de Lesseps, Charles Lefebvre, Duke of Wellington, Camille Bernardin (quite perfect in Mr. Baker's boxes), and Mair Baumann principally attracted my notice.

From the darkest of all, I selected Abbeé Brametel, Alfred de Rougemont, Jean Cherpin, Louis Van Houtte, Prince Camille de Rohan and Xavier Olibo.

Two roses, which have been for some seasons in the catalogues, were shown in greater perfection than heretofore—Clothilde Rolland and Marquise de Gibot.

The best of last year's roses—I mean of roses sent out by the English nurserymen in the spring of 1872, and they are valuable additions to our gardens—were Anne Laxton (raised by Mr. Laxton, of Stamford, one of our most earnest and accomplished rosarians), a Rose of good shape, and much improved by cultivation; Baron de Bonstetten, remarkable for its richness of color—deep crimson; Baronne Louise Uxkull, a large, well-formed, carmine rose; Francois Michelon, Le Havre, Lyonais, Madame George Schwartz, Monsieur Etienne Levet and President Thiers. All these must be ordered by those who are forming a collection. And I should add to them Bessie Johnson, which, though seldom large enough for exhibition, is quite one of the prettiest, freest and most fragrant of garden roses.

Of this year's roses, Cheshunt Hybrid is very distinct and beautiful, both as to wood, foliage, and flowers, and will soon establish itself as a favourite in all rosaries. My namesake, Reynolds Hole, has also showed itself to deserve the description given of it last season as "an improved Louis Van Houtte," and needs no further praise. These two roses were raised by Mr. George Paul, of Cheshunt, who also exhibited on Saturday another seedling rose of excellent form and color, called "Wilson Saunders," much resembling Baron Adolpho de Rothschild and Charles Lefebvre in appearance, but reported by the raiser to be different from either in various important particulars.—S. Reynolds Hole, in *The Garden*.