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however, surface cultivation is carried on persistently, very little watering will be needed. Weeding will also be reduced to almost nothing for the simple reason that the weeds will never be permitted to show their faces. It is a great mistake to permit them to grow inches high, then pull them out, for as long as they grow they are drawing to themselves moisture and nutriment that should be going to the roots of the "garden stuff."

Just one point more before leaving this: When enriching the soil of a garden don't use chemical fertilizers. Use old manure, leaf mould, and the rich, rotted material of a compost heap. I think this has been told one million and five times in Farmer's Advocate pages, but perhaps it will bear telling again:—raw, fresh manure burns and destroys nearly all garden plants. Manure must be old and well mellowed. . . . Leaves of all kinds raked up and dug into the garden every fall will make a splendid garden soil in time; so will repeated applications from the compost heap.—How to make a compost heap?—It's the easiest thing in the world, if you keep at it. Don't waste a weed or a bit of refuse. Pile it all in some out of the way corner—weeds cut out from the borders (if any), lawn-clippings (unless they are used for poultry) garbage from the house, etc., keeping all moist by repeated applications of water, dish-water, etc. When rotted to a rich, black mould, put it on the garden. A good idea is to have a large box-like enclosure, with a close lid, for the compost heap. This will keep the moisture in and will prevent flies from gathering. . . . Harwood ashes, too, should never be wasted, but should be applied to the garden and about fruit trees.

Another frequent cause of failure in gardens is bad planting. In the first place the seed-bed must be prepared properly, with a fine, soft, friable surface. Seedlings are delicate little things; they are the babies of the plant world and require tender care until they are strong enough to stand upon their own legs. They simply can't force through hard, coarse nubbins of earth. The seed-bed, in short, must be worked well to a good depth, and the top must be well pulverized with a fine rake.

Another mistake often made is in the planting of the seed. Fine seeds are covered too deeply with earth and never come up at all—poor things, poor things! while large seeds are put too near the surface and grow up spindling and weak. Small seeds, such as carrots, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, radish, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and celery need from a quarter to half an inch of soil above; larger ones, such as beans, peas and corn need a depth of from one to two inches, while the vines—melons, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins and citron—are planted from one-half to one inch in depth.

A point worth noting is that the surface of the freshly raked soil should dry several hours before planting is attempted. Otherwise it is likely to dry out into hard, little lumps which are rather unmanageable if the seeds have been put in.

When planning your garden do not think of having it in raised beds; which evaporate the moisture. Have it on the flat and plant in rows running from north to south. If space is a great consideration cucumbers, tomatoes, etc., may be planted along the fence and trained up to it. A little extra fertilizer should be worked in wherever gross feeders, such as vines, are to be planted, and in the bottom of the celery trench.

Planting time will, of course, depend upon the latitude in which you live. Usually the directions on seed-packets are quite explicit enough to be worth following closely. Cabbage, cauliflower, early beets, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant may be started in the house, but many prefer to buy the plants direct from a professional grower at setting-out time. In any case it is always wise to buy one's seeds early, then one can plan the garden to advantage.

Discolored Ceiling.

The ceiling of a room that had been plastered and then papered became damp from brine that had leaked through from a floor above. When the paper was removed the ceiling was washed and repaired. However, the new paper becomes damp in moist weather. Would you kindly suggest any method whereby

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Section 45.....

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