

**The Farm and Garden.**

**THE BEST SITUATION FOR A GARDEN.**

The best situation for either a market garden or farm garden is on comparatively level ground, provided the land is thoroughly drained. Gently rolling lands sloping south or southeast are excellent; northerly and westerly exposures are to be avoided. Secure shelter on the north-east and west by hills, woods or buildings, if possible; but close proximity to woods may often cause loss of crops by rabbits and other vermin, and protection must be provided by distance or otherwise. A diversity of soil in the garden will permit of a greater variety of vegetables being grown, as some require a heavy soil, and others a light one. Stagnant ponds of water must be avoided; but if they can be utilized as reservoirs for irrigation, preserve them. Shade and fruit trees near garden are a nuisance, by furnishing homes for insects to breed in. Either avoid or destroy them. Locate the garden near the highway, to save going over the fields when muddy. In buying, locate near the railroad to save expense in shipping.

**PROFITS OF EARLY LAMBS.**

The profit of fattening sheep and lambs the last year or two has decreased the number of store sheep wintered over for the wool and increase of flock. When farmers have plenty of pasture through the summer, growing early lambs by a cross with a Cotswold or Leicester ram is very profitable. Such lambs, if good, sell readily to any butcher for \$3 to \$4 per head, according to quality and earliness. Lambs that come about the first of February sell the best. But this needs a warm basement under the barn, good care, and some extra feed both for ewes and lambs as soon as the latter are old enough to eat readily. Probably a little grain fed to lambs in spring pays better than if fed to any other kind of stock. Lambs in June sell at fancy prices, and the best are always most saleable. The increase in value of lamb pelts alone from extra feeding, will pay the small amount of grain required.

**ONION CULTURE.**

**AMATEUR GARDINER.**—1. The variety you mention will please you. 2. No! We do not think the other superior. 3. Yes, your soil must be well prepared for onions. You should select a deep, rich, loamy soil on a dry bottom. Good, strong, sandy loam makes excellent onion ground. You should manure the spot selected very thoroughly with well rotted manure, as free as possible from seeds that will germinate. Your land must be very thoroughly prepared by ploughing or dragging deeply, harrowing or raking, pulverizing the lumps and making them as fine as possible. Poultry manure is by many considered to be especially adapted to onion land. Pig manure is good. Be careful to get fresh seed, old seed will often fail. 4. Yes, you can grow crop after crop of onions upon the same patch of ground.

A good manure for fruit trees may be made by mixing four loads of dry peat or swamp muck with one load of stable manure, and one barrel of dry ashes. Let it lie in a heap for a few weeks and work it over before applying. It would do no harm to add a barrel of ground bone to the above. When it is applied, cover the ground well as far as the roots of the tree extend.

**SUPPLY OF GREENS.**

While the market gardener generally arranges to have a full supply of salads to supply the demand in the early spring, yet a larger proportion of farmers make no preparation whatever for this crop.

Early in the spring we all crave something green, and it seems necessary to our health that this want should be supplied, and when it can be done so readily there is really no excuse for being without.

Many farmers wives lose far more time hunting over the farm for yellow or called dock, thistles, lamb's quarter, &c, that grow wild in the fence corners or in out-of-the-way places, than it would take to furnish a full supply in the garden. With this advantage, that if reasonable care is taken, the supply can be kept every year with but little trouble. Many of this kind of plants can be run in the fall, and thereby save considerable trouble in the spring, besides having them come into use much earlier, but as it is to late to talk about them now, and what is to be done must of course be done the first of this month.

Among the best and, at the same time the most prolific plants for salad is spinach. The leaves are large, the plant quick growing, and when well established will seed itself, all that is necessary is to keep the weeds down and the soil stirred.

Horseradish is very valuable, because it serves a double purpose, as the leaves can be used for greens, and the roots as a sauce in addition to meats. It starts to grow very early in the spring, and, like spinach, needs only reasonable care to furnish a supply of both roots and leaves for a number of years, besides this the leaves are often used medically; for this reason no farmer's garden should be without a good bed or row of this plant. Though coming in later than the three mentioned, Mustard is almost indispensable in the garden. The leaves make a good salad, while the seeds are both used as a sauce and medically. Then we have cress, another good salad, that yields well.

With the exception of horseradish these all grow from the seed, and can be grown along side of each other, so that the salad bed or rows can be made a permanent part of the garden the same as asparagus and rhubarb.

The soil for spring sowing should be prepared as early in the spring as it can be worked, either plow or spade deep, then harrow fine, and lay off in rows twelve inches apart, sow the seed and cover lightly, the soil should be reasonably rich, as all the gardens should be. The best greens are those which make a quick growth, being more tender and pleasant to the taste, and for this reason rich soil should be chosen. They should be well cultivated and kept clean of weeds.

With horseradish small pieces of the roots are secured and planted in the soil. The rows can be placed twelve inches apart, and the root-cuts six inches apart. After they start to grow they require but very little cultivation, but as with all garden crops the weeds must be kept down, and if this is done as it should be, the plants will receive sufficient cultivation.

**FARM ECONOMY.**

How to make farming more profitable, is a problem of the age. Theoretically, the problem is easily solved. A farmer should never buy what he can raise with a reasonable expenditure for himself. The aggregate agricultural products of the world furnish sustenance for the world's

people.—Everything which yields nourishment or comfort, originates in the soil. Why cannot farmers, by acquiring more education and better judgment to direct their energies, succeed in supplying more of their own needs and thereby gain the independence which is credited to them, but which, as a class, they have never attained? Can one be called an intelligent and independent farmer who goes on from year to year raising the same crop and getting less pay each succeeding year until his farm itself is seized to defray the expenses he has incurred in running it? Yet he controls a portion of the world's sustenance. Who is to blame? There are hundreds of instances of farmers who, from the management of a ten acre patch, derive more profit than many of our farmers on their quarter sections. It is because they cultivate their ground for all it is worth. Because their labors are directed, not by the primitive instinct of father Adam, but by enlightenment and business ability.

Let our farmers chip out of their wheat farms a pig lot, a pasture for sheep, horses and cattle. Let them lay off their choicest plot of land for a fruit and vegetable garden, one of the best of expedients to avoid paying doctor's bills. Let them seed down several acres to red clover, raise peas and some corn to fatten swine, and raise pumpkins, squash, potatoes, everything in fact that will tend to make both ends meet, whether for home consumption or for marketing purposes. Let farmers do all this, sowing less than one-half their farms to wheat, and who then will get the corner on their products and drive them into insolvency by dictating starvation prices!

Every farmer should remember that he is one of those who help to sustain the masses, and he should ask himself, can I not contrive in some way to produce many of the necessities or comforts which are supplied by others than myself and for which I now have to pay cash? After considering the profit of keeping stock, of poultry raising and flesh culture, after studying over the wild range of products which grow to perfection in their district, it would seem that some method of farming might be settled upon which would preclude the possible deleterious effects of surplus wheat production.

There is need of more intelligence among farmers. They should rise to an appreciation of their true positions in national and social affairs. Above all things else, study and broaden your views of your own occupation. Raise it to a higher intellectual and social basis and fit yourselves by your practical successes to be its ornaments.

American farmers have found that dairying is one of the least exhaustive methods of agriculture for the soil, especially as compared with grain-raising. Where grain is freely fed to cows, there is but little, if any, loss to the fertility of the soil some dairymen going so far as to hold that they can reclaim a worn-out farm with a herd of dairy cows and a system of high feeding without the aid of commercial fertilizers. An eminent English authority says that on his farm dairy cattle exhaust the soil, much less than a herd of young cattle, whose growing bones absorb so much of the phosphates in the soil, and more than a herd of mature fattening cattle who merely put on flesh. According to this, pastures

to maintain a high degree of fertility need fertilizing. One of the most successful dairymen we ever know top-dressed his pastures regularly with well rotted barnyard manure finely pulverized, and evenly distributed by "brushing" it, as some farmers do their newly-stocked land.

HALF of the success attained in good gardening is gained in the selection of first-class seed. It is folly to sow anything else and expect good returns. Get the seed catalogues of the reliable seedmen, and select now in order that you may not have your planting delayed. Too many farmers depend upon the town or village grocery for their seeds. It is always better to deal with regular seedmen. Their catalogues are frequently noticed in our columns, and their long standing ensures you good seed.

The Boston Herald thinks that "great farmers on small farms" is the true method for American agriculture, and remarks that the old "Saxon earth hunger" is a normal craving of the races that seek a home in our republic. It is encouraging to note that even in Illinois the tendency now is towards smaller farms and better cultivation. In this way two blades of grass, or corn, or wheat, are made to grow where one grew before.

Buying and selling stock is an important part of every farmer's business, says a contemporary, even in sections where cattle breeding is not a specialty. It requires a great deal of judgment to do this successfully, and this will be only acquired by experience and the use of scales to weigh the stock occasionally. With some experience a farmer can learn to judge weights of cattle or other farm stock away from home, while his own may be weighed as often as he chooses. Even if the stock are not to be sold, it is very convenient for farmers to have scales, that they may know the results of different kinds of food.

The potato possesses the property of converting a very much larger portion of the manure ingredients of the soil into human food than any of the cereal grain crops. For instance, to every bushel of wheat about 100 pounds of straw are grown, while the haulm of the potatoes when dry is so light that in experimenting we do not think it worth while to weigh it. These properties, when combined with a suitable climate, enable the cultivator to produce upon a given area of ground a larger amount of human food from the potato than from any of the cereal grain crops.

No farmer should be without a garden plot, the soil of which has been especially prepared for the growing of delicacies for the year round. The farmer's will always want such a plot, and it is not her fault if the family are lacking in vegetables. Many farmers consider their garden plots of the best importance, and therefore slight them. Let our friends look after their vegetable gardens, and have the ground thoroughly crunched and properly prepared for the coming season.

A lady whose conscience was softened by a recent revival, called on a clergyman, in remorseful spirit, to tell him she had spoken disparagingly of his sermons. "That's nothing, my child," was the reply, "I don't think much of that."

"There are 1,400,000,000 people upon the earth at present, according to the latest statistics," said Mrs. Smith, looking up from the paper. "Only think of it! and we haven't had a caller for two days!"