

productiveness and certainty to ripen in this locality, hoping thereby to bring a measure of success to all who are interested in the home garden.

Do Work in Season

At the outset I wish to emphasize the necessity of doing the season's work in seasonable time. The importance of this is not sufficiently realized by many, and especially those who came from more temperate climates. In Manitoba we have but a short season and if you want results it is absolutely imperative that every advantage be taken to get the benefits of a full season's growth. "Never put off till tomorrow what should be done today," is particularly applicable to gardening in Manitoba.

The Soil and Its Preparation

As it is not possible for the home gardener to select his soil, he must do the best work possible with what he has at his disposal, which means a great variety of soils to deal with. The most difficult of all to handle successfully is the clay that has been thrown up from cellars. However, even this can be made to produce admirable results if a systematic course of manuring and fall plowing is adopted. To ensure success, all garden land should receive a dressing of well rotted manure three inches deep, to be **dug or plowed in, in the fall**. The frost reduces the roughest ground to almost perfect condition for a good seed bed, lessening the labor of cultivation, conserving moisture and inducing freer germination of the seeds. Still another advantage of fall plowing is the opportunity given for destroying a crop of weeds before the land is sown in the spring.

In dealing with spring worked land the following method is adopted: In order that the land may not become dried out and lumpy, as soon as the land is dug or plowed it should be raked or harrowed the same day and seeded if possible. If the harrowing is deferred, it means a loss of time—often weeks—before the coming of a rain heavy enough to saturate and dissolve the lumps and place the land in the required condition for the sowing of small seeds. Care must be taken not to work the land when it is at all wet, and a good guide in this respect is to make it a rule not to work the land when the soil clings to implements used.

Unless it is necessary for drainage purposes, do not raise the beds. Sow and cultivate on the level, thereby saving labor and conserving moisture.

Sowing the Seed

Successful germination, no matter how carefully the sowing may be done, must depend largely on the condition of the ground, but we must bear in mind the fact that unless the seed is carefully and judiciously placed in the ground, and properly covered, the crop cannot get a good start, no matter how well the land is prepared nor how good the seed is. Always put seed in freshly prepared soil. Sow your seed as soon as the land is dry enough to work after a rain, as the crust which begins to form on most soils after a rain will partly shut out the air and prevent free germination.

In case of heavy rains after sowing, it is a good plan to go over the ground lightly with a rake and break the crust, loosening the surface soil, increasing the stand of the plant, and at the same time killing a large number of weeds.

Firming the Soil

Many seeds are lost from the failure to properly firm the soil, especially