

tity of her own apples, will purchase a limited quantity of Ontario apples, because of the superiority of the latter in flavor and beauty.

Outside of Canada we find a growing demand in the Western and Southern States for Canadian apples, owing to their excellent keeping qualities.

Great Britain, however, is the great apple market of the world, and its ports of Liverpool, London and Glasgow receive yearly immense quantities of American and Canadian apples, and, although shippers frequently lose in the speculation, yet, when apples are really very extra, the returns are usually satisfactory, and the enormous quantity shipped in years of abundance serves to keep our home markets from being overstocked.

Choosing Site and Soil for the Orchard.

During the early settlement of the country, apple trees thrived almost anywhere, and if the question of location was considered, a southern aspect was usually chosen. This was quite proper; for in those days our spring season was cooler and moister than now, retarding a too early growth of buds and blossoms, and injury by early frosts was thus prevented. Usually the orchard was surrounded by forest, softening the climate, and damage by winter frosts and summer drouths was thus largely prevented.

Now all is changed; and our methods must change in sympathy with our ever-changing circumstances. We thus learn that climate and aspect have a greater influence than soil, and both can be had, in a greater or less measure, on almost every farm. First of all, we have therefore to consider the location. We must now choose a northern or western aspect, especially in localities which are subject to early frosts, a southern exposure, particularly on a warm soil, producing a too early growth, which subjects the buds and blossoms to the biting frosts of late spring. However, for early varieties required for the table or the market, choose a warm soil and a southern aspect in localities not liable to early frosts and protected from raw winds.

In a northerly or western exposure it is important that the trees be protected from the high winds, by which the blossoms become injured, and the fruit is precipitated to the ground before maturity. If, therefore, there is no natural forest, a windbreak should be planted on the northern and western sides of the orchard. The sugar maple, the Scotch pine and the Norway spruce are admirably suited for this purpose. This aspect gives a colder and later soil, and avoids the injurious effects of the sun's rays on blossoms laden with frost. A high, dry elevation comes next in order of preference, and if the declivity has a sharp descent, it is not an objectionable feature.

If you have the right aspect, you need not pay so much attention to the character of the soil; for if it is not of the best for the apple, it can be improved by proper cultivation and manuring. However, we prefer a friable, deep clay loam. Such a soil, in the proper location, will produce the best flavored and most nutritious fruit, and an abundant quantity. The soil should be deeply drained, for stagnant

water about the roots is as injurious to the apple as a dry, hot atmosphere. A water-logged, flat soil can scarcely receive drainage enough for the apple tree, and in a low, flat situation, late frosts are more severe than on high land.

The apple is a lime and potash feeder, which plant foods are most abundant in clay soils. This is the reason why unleached ashes produce such wonderful results in the orchard, especially on the lighter classe of soils. It will not do, however, to plant where the substratum contains limestone or other rocks, for they obstruct the descent of the roots, causing a lack of moisture in the dry season.

The Asparagus Bed.

One great reason why we have no more good asparagus beds in our small farm gardens is no doubt in the fact that the planter has to wait at least two years for any considerable returns, says W. D. Boynton, in the National Stockman and Farmer. We always want immediate returns for our labor and money. Some plant other garden stuff and leave the planting of asparagus to some future time. Too often this time never comes, and the years are allowed to slip by with no bed established.

It certainly cannot be that the vegetable is not desirable, for no one refuses a dish so delicious to the palate after a long winter of abstinence from fresh green food of any description. Nothing can be more tempting in early spring than a dish of well cooked and seasoned asparagus.

Nor can the gardener be restrained from planting on account of the difficulty of growing. It is easily established and maintained. There is no operation of gardening more simple or less laborious. The gardener must simply allow himself to be a little forehanded at the start and plant for future years.

The investment of a few hours' labor this spring will give the starting point. Don't put it off because you can get no return this coming season. You are simply placing it beyond your power to get anything next year. Start now, and next year, if plants are set instead of sowing seed, some return may be realized—not a full crop, but enough to make you well satisfied with the investment. At least one year's time may be gained by setting plants instead of sowing seed. This is quite an object, and is usually sufficient inducement to the planter to go to the extra expense of procuring plants. In most cases these plants may be procured from a neighboring garden, where a division of the roots is necessary and desirable. The expense of purchasing from nurserymen and seed dealers is not great, and by purchasing a better quality may often be obtained. Two or three dozens of crowns will start a nice little bed.

A bed once well-established and properly cared for will last for many years—some claim for twenty-five and more. This of course depends mainly upon the care it receives. The ground should be put into first-class condition before planting. It should be made deep, rich and mellow. Trenching and filling with manure may be resorted to on a small patch, but is not absolutely necessary. The plants should be set in drills, about 2½ feet apart, the plants ten inches or a foot apart in the drill. Keep the weeds down and mulch all the year round

lightly, letting it wear nearly off during late summer and autumn, to be re-covered before winter sets in.

Peas as a Garden Crop.

Amongst garden crops peas and beans have the greatest nutritive value, and yet they are often the most neglected. Moreover, they do not require so rich a soil as other garden vegetables. They may be said to be the poor man's crop, for they compare favorably with meat and cheese in nutritive value. Farmers who are so situated that they cannot conveniently obtain meat during the summer season, should have an abundant supply of green peas and beans growing in their garden for as long a season as possible.

A comparatively low temperature is most suitable for the growth of peas, and they should therefore be planted as early as the ground can be brought into a fit condition. The earliest and best varieties should also be chosen. To add still another impetus to obtaining an early crop, a warm soil should be selected. It is not desirable to apply a large quantity of barnyard manure, producing a heavy coarse straw and a poor quality of pea and pod, but bone dust or superphosphate will most likely produce the desired effects. The seed should be sown in drills three feet apart, placing the peas from one-half to one inch apart in the drill, covering them firmly with fine soil.

A prize essayist in the "Gardeners Monthly," writing from Strathroy, Ont., keeps up a succession of crops by sowing different varieties in the following order: "April 1st, one quart of Blue Peter; April 10th, one quart Waite's Caractacus; April 20th, one quart Laxton's Alpha; April 30th, one quart McLean's Advancer; May 10th, one quart Laxton's Prolific Long Pod; May 20th, one quart Champion of England; May 30th, one quart Telephone. After this date none may be sown until about the middle of August, when a quart or two of one of the early kinds may be sown for a late crop. Laxton's Alpha will require sticks about thirty inches high; Champion of England, Telephone and Laxton's Prolific Long Pod will require sticks about four feet in height."

Cauliflower Culture.

There has, undoubtedly, been more money made by the cultivation of the cauliflower, acre per acre, than by any other vegetable yet discovered, and to day it is a crop that will pay the cultivator several hundred dollars per acre, says a correspondent of the Country Gentleman.

The early crop, like that of other vegetables, is the most profitable, but as this will require the use of cold frames, hot-beds or hot-houses, I shall not treat of it in this article. There are only two kinds of cauliflowers that are reliable, though in all seed catalogues you will find from five to twenty different kinds. After several fair trials, I found that Henderson's Early Snowball was the surest header, with the Erfurt second. As the seed is very expensive—six dollars per ounce—I would advise the beginner not to buy more than an ounce at first; a fifty-cent package will do in most cases, and it has enough seeds in it to raise several hundred plants.

Cauliflowers will grow upon almost all good soils, but I find that they thrive best upon a