



MIXED FARMING

MANITOBA - SASKATCHEWAN - ALBERTA

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The Farm Garden

THE idea of the well-balanced mixed farm is not complete without including a garden. Whatever high development may be achieved in other departments, the general scheme does not seem properly rounded out unless there is a garden. It may not be a large one, indeed too large a garden would interfere with the other work, but a patch of vegetables and at least a few flowers seem essential to the homelike farmstead of the mixed farm.

It would be folly for the busy farmer to attempt to grow a large area of vegetables unless he is suitably situated to make market gardening a feature of his work. The ordinary farmer will do better to put in a fair sized patch of potatoes and then a few rows of each of the varieties of vegetables that are liked best by the family. A few fruit bushes and perhaps a plum or crab apple tree or two, a few flower beds, some shelter trees and a nice little stretch of lawn would complete the horticultural efforts of the average mixed farmer. It is much better to attempt things on a modest scale and carry the plans through to success than to lay out extensive and elaborate grounds and then have them overgrown with weeds and suffering from neglect.

Vegetables

Most vegetables grow quite well in Western Canada. The soil is well suited to them and many of them do with comparatively little heat and mature in a short season. Others requiring greater heat and longer season, succeed only moderately well or not at all.

The vegetable garden should be laid out in long rows rather than in beds. Even if there are several different kinds in a row it is better to have them planted that way so that a horse can go the full length of the row with a cultivator. Land is usually plentiful, and therefore it is better to put the rows a good distance apart and use the same distance all through the garden. Two and a half feet is a good space, and even three may be used. Greater crops per acre could be grown by crowding the crop more, but in the farm garden, the main object is to minimize labor, and this is done by giving plenty of room and keeping everything in straight long rows. Where there is plenty

of land available and especially in the drier districts, it is a good idea to use double the area required for vegetables, cropping half each year and summer-fallowing the other half. This cuts hoeing down to the minimum and ensures a good crop if at all possible. All vegetables take kindly to manure, and it may be applied on the garden to good advantage. Only well-rotted manure should be used and it is not advisable to put on a heavy dressing at once. It is better to put on a little every year than ever to put on a great quantity.

West is fortunately very free from potato diseases.

Beets, carrots, swede turnips and parsnips do very well in this country. They should be sowed in the garden about the last of April. As soon as they are large enough to pull conveniently, they should be thinned. Good cultivation is all the further treatment they require. White turnips are not usually a success; they get too strong.

Onions also do well in the West. They are sown in the open about the end of April. The land should be in very fine tilth and raked

or graded for earliest, American Wonder for second, and Stratum, Telephone or Reliance for latest, makes a good selection.

String beans can also be grown though they are not so uniformly successful as peas. They cannot be planted until danger of frost is well passed and are in danger of early fall frost again. Only the earliest sorts should be used.

Cabbage should be started in a hotbed in order to get good results. Sow in hotbed early in April, prick off as soon as the seedlings get well germinated, and then set out the young plants about the last of May. Cabbage maggots are the chief enemy; they can be kept down by sprinkling the plants with pyrethrum powder, and also by trapping and destroying the butterflies. Copenhagen Market is about the best all-round cabbage, being early, a good yielder and of fine quality.

Cauliflower should be treated similarly to cabbage. Early Snowball is a good variety.

Corn may be grown successfully in most parts of the West. Plant in hills or drills about the middle of May and keep well cultivated throughout the summer. In Manitoba, Golden Bantam is the best variety, but it comes at the end of the season and it is a good plan, if corn is a favorite dish, to have some Squaw or Malakoff, or both, planted so as to have some before the Golden Bantam is ready. In most of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Squaw corn will be the only kind suitable.

Tomatoes can be grown for green picklers in any part of the West and in Manitoba in most seasons they can be ripened. They have to be started in the hotbed as early as practicable. The plants should be ready to flower when they are set out about June 10th. Best results are obtained by staking up the plants so that they do not shade the fruit. The vines should be severely pruned once the fruit has begun to set. The Earliana variety, of which there are a good many strains, is about the earliest and therefore most suitable. The Sunnibrook Earliana is about the best strain.

Lettuce grows very readily. It may be planted very early outside and later plantings may be made to lengthen the season. The cabbage head type gives best results being crisper and finer flavor than the open curly head. Some of the



CORNEL OF A REAL FARM GARDEN

(Courtesy of the Grand Trunk Pacific Ry.)

Potatoes are the staple vegetable of the West, they are, and should be, grown in greatest quantity. Among the best main crop varieties are, Wee McGregor, Table Talk and Empire State; among the best early varieties are Early Bovee and Early Ohio. They are usually planted about May 24th and this time seems as near right as can be got. Good sized potatoes cut to sets with three or four eyes each make the best seed. The practice of using small potatoes for seed induces the growth of small potatoes. Potatoes should be cultivated frequently and where bugs prevail should be sprayed with Paris Green. The

very firm. Onions may be grown from seed or from Dutch sets. The seed is much cheaper and under favorable conditions, gives a satisfactory crop. The Dutch sets produce larger and earlier onions. The onion maggot is the chief enemy of onions. Yellow Globe Danvers and Large Red Wethersfield are the standard reliable varieties of onions.

Green peas also grow well in our climate. They should be got in as early as possible in the spring. No special treatment is required. If the land is properly prepared and cultivated, that is all they need. About three varieties should be used in order to lengthen the season. Early Pilot