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Success With Sweet Peas  
Arthur Waller, Northumberland, Co., Ont.

I GROW sweet peas as follows: As soon as the ground is fit in the spring, I use a Planet Junior hand cultivator and plow out a furrow about nine inches deep. I then put in some well-rotted manure, sprinkle it with some fine mould, and sow the peas, covering them with about two inches of fine earth. This is pressed down firmly.

As soon as they begin to grow, I keep the ground well cultivated. I hill them up till the ground is level again.

The main point about growing sweet peas is the watering. All through the growing period I give them plenty of water.

The space between the rows is used for lettuce, spinach and radish. They are done by the time the peas begin to climb. I then spread the clippings between the rows. This helps to keep the ground moist.

### Light in the Country Home

IN Farm and Dairy and other farm papers, advertisements of portable lamps and lanterns have been appearing for the last few months. These lamp advertisers are doing a good work for the rural community, and I would like to add a word to help them along, not so much to benefit the manufacturers as the people who may be thinking of buying their wares. For the man who cannot afford an expensive lighting system, electricity or acetylene for instance, and this class includes the most of us these portable lamps, such as are advertised in Farm and Dairy, are O.K.

A few months ago I paid a visit to Mr. Henry Glendinning, one of the best known farmers in Ontario. One of the recent additions to the household equipment at Rosebank Farm, as Mr. Glendinning calls his home, was an up-to-date mantle lamp. Mr. Glendinning was so pleased with the strong, clear light given by this mantle lamp that he insisted on lighting one of their old coal oil lamps, such as are still found in the majority of farm houses, and of setting them aside by the wayside. First he extinguished the mantle lamp, and although there was a good sized burner on the ordinary coal oil lamp, the room seemed dark by comparison. Then the mantle lamp was lighted again and the old-fashioned lamp extinguished. Its light was not missed.

Shortly after my visit to Mr. Glendinning, I stayed over night with Mr. J. W. Logan, the well known Ayreshire breeder of Howick, Que. Mr. Logan had a mantle lamp of the same make, and he was just as pleased with his purchase as was Mr. Glendinning. These are only two of many mantle lamps that I have seen burning and giving the best of satisfaction.

A few weeks ago I became acquainted with a new style of portable lamp. Walking along a dark country road on one of my infrequent visits to the old home, I was surprised to see a blaze of light from a small cottage standing back from the road. My first impression was that the house was on fire, but the blaze was white and steady instead of yellow and flickering. Next day I learned that a brother of the woman in that house was a dealer in gasoline lamps in the United States, and he had sent one across to his sister. This lamp has no chimney, has a mantle burner, and gives a clear, strong light, estimated at between 300 and 400 candle power—a much better light than the electric lighting of the average city home.

I don't know which of these two styles of portable lamp is the best. Both, however, are good and cheap, considering the light that they make and the fuel they save. They are a boon to school children who must study at night, to the old folks whose

sight is failing them, and folks who, like myself, are in their prime, also appreciate a good light of a winter's evening.—F. E. E.

### Start Begonias Now

B. C. Tillett, Wentworth Co., Ont.

SOME of the finest begonias can be raised cheaply from seed, and if this is shown in boxes now it will produce flowers in September. The soil should be coarse below, with plenty of drainage underneath, and very fine and even on the top. It should be firmly pressed down, well watered, and left for 24 hours. The seed is very small and should be sprinkled very thinly on the surface and lightly pressed with the palm of the hand. Do not cover it with soil. Cover the boxes with glass to check evaporation. The boxes should be placed under glass.

The seed takes some little time to germinate, but water is not necessary until the seedlings appear. The glass should then be raised, otherwise the tiny seedlings are liable to damp off. Plenty of fresh air and a fairly high temperature are the chief points in the cultivation of seedling begonias. They may be grown entirely in pots, or about the middle of June planted in the open ground.

### Simple Sprays for House Plants

John Call, Peel Co., Ont.

THE necessity of spraying to keep down insect pests in connection with all horticultural pursuits, becomes more apparent every year. It is even more so with the house plant. On account of the more unnatural conditions of surroundings, such as a dry atmosphere produced by artificial heat and lighting, or perhaps an impure atmosphere produced by gas stoves or gas jets. The most frequent insect pest of house plants is the aphid, commonly called green plant louse. Then we have the red spider, thrip and many others. For convenience and economy, I would recommend as a preventative to the amateur grower the following sprays: Dissolve one ounce of any kitchen soap in a gallon of water. To this add a half cup of coal oil, keeping this well triturated with the syringe while application proceeds. This simple remedy is a wonderful cleanser of foliage.

It is a good idea to spray frequently with tepid water under pressure as a preventative against insect pests. The spraying or syringing of plants should be a distinct and separate operation from the watering proper. If the two operations, watering at the roots and spraying, are attempted at the same time, neither of them can be done successfully. Whenever the plants are soddened with too much water or perhaps missed altogether. Water the plants at the roots as required first, then do the spraying after. I have seen batches of small plants and many fine specimen plants badly injured by careless application of spray. A fine spray, thoroughly applied so as not to miss any part of the plant, is better than a heavy application only partially applied.

If the foliage of plants in bloom has to be sprayed, it is best to spray from underneath rather than over the top. The moisture will then reach the part of the foliage where insect pests are usually found, and it will not injure the blooms so much as overhead spraying. An angle nozzle on the syringe that will give an up-cast spray is the best for this purpose.

Filling for cake: Grated rind and juice of one lemon, 1 egg, 1 cup of sugar. Steam over boiling water until thick. Stir while steaming, then spread the layers.

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