

bage and tomato plants, they may be protected from cutworms by a collar made of tarpaper, if it extends an inch below and an inch and a half above ground. Another way to guard against these pests is to take a tin can—a tomato can will do—having both ends open and sink it into the soil over the plant, making sure there are no cutworms around the plants at the time. The ground may first be scalded with hot water before setting plants and putting cans over them. The cans should be about half way into the soil. I have tried this way with good results.

Cucumbers can be started in the house by planting the seeds in pots made from tough paper. When transplanting them the paper can be torn off, leaving the roots undisturbed. Experience has taught me that cucumbers are more prolific when they are planted in a hill made by digging a hole in the ground and putting into it a quantity of fresh manure. Wet the manure and then cover with a few inches of earth. A can is set in the centre and the earth moulded up around it. A small box like frame may be used instead of a can. The seeds are planted in there and covered with glass to protect the young plants from the cold. Another method is to punch small holes about the sides and bottom of a can, sink it into the soil, mould the earth well up around it and plant the seeds around the can. Fill it with water as often as the dryness of the weather demands. Place something over the can to prevent the water from evaporating. Cucumbers require lots of moisture. Do not allow cucumbers to ripen on the vine until you have all the green ones you want, as it will stop bearing if some of the fruit is allowed to reach maturity.

No garden is complete unless some small fruit is grown. Strawberries can be grown here, and why not, since the wild strawberry flourishes here. Then I find that the wonderberry does well here. It requires about the same cultivation as tomatoes, and is claimed to be a creation of Luther Burbank. Women living in cities and towns having a waste space in their backyards could turn it into a small kitchen garden.

I consider gardening a healthful occupation, to say nothing of the pleasure derived from it.

LIZZIE KAMPMAN.

St. Benedict, Sask.

NATURE'S WAY

The designer of a country garden in the prairie parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan runs up against some severe limitations. I succeeded in overcoming some of these at my farm at Shoal Lake, Man. Like many English people in the late 19th century, I came under the Japanese influence, which made me want my house and garden to form a harmonious whole. The first necessity was to surround the house with a belt of trees. At my place nature had provided this, and it was only necessary to cut out an opening in the wood. This was done on lines to simulate a natural "bay." A wide space was cut clear out to give a south view of a meadow, lake, and a range of high hills closing the view at one and a half miles distance. Another vista showed, from the house, a gleam of water and a grain field closed by a wooded hill. I found to my regret that tame flowers were hardly practicable as part of the ensemble of a villa garden at Shoal Lake. For this reason: the tree belts are absolutely essential. But the native poplars and maples are lusty drinkers and absorb most of the moisture provided by the 18-inch rainfall for several yards from their stems. Therefore if flower borders are made in front of the tree belts, or as Longfellow says: "Just where the woodland meets the flower surf of the prairie," the garden flowers will be miserable and stunted for want of water. Beds for flowers can be made in the middle of the lawn, but the labor will be great, as they must be dug by hand, and they will look unnatural to the artistic eye, as nature herself rarely plants flowers en masse in that position. The only place where the flowers are desirable and possible is in borders along the sides of the house, if the eave-troughs are removed and the whole rainfall of the roof allowed to fall on the borders. But is it not more desirable to have healthful dryness than flower color round a house? At my Shoal Lake

farm there were lots of flowers, but grown in the kitchen garden and a cut supply kept in the house in vases. After much thought and study and a lot of kind advice from the late Dr. Fletcher, I concluded that the most practicable way to plant a lawn was by sowing bromus inermis. The ground had been thrice plowed and all the poplar roots taken out. It was then smoothed with the slush scraper first, then the harrows right side up, then the harrows upside down, then with the shovel and hand rake. The broad natural contour of the land was left, as ordinarily a country garden should not be terraced. A town garden should always be terraced. Why? Because "God made the country" in curves, and "man made the town" in straight lines. When you design a country garden right you simply carry out the Creator's plans, only eliminating the factor of competition between the living forms you plant and care for. The idea that bromus grass will spread into the wood and kill the trees is a myth. On the contrary the bromus grass will not long survive on the lawn itself. It is only a locomotens to make a passable lawn until first the wild grasses and later the blue-grass creep in and take possession. It would be better to sow a lawn with "skunk-tail-grass" if the seed could be got, but it can't. You can't seed a lawn too thick. I may say that, if you are English you need not expect to have a lawn like that in the famous "quad" at Rugby school, or like the natural sward on the Chiltern Hills. An 18-inch rainfall and a minimum of 40 below zero are hard facts. You must have shrubbery in your garden between the tree belts and the lawn. There are no lovelier shrubs than our native prairie ones and they are competent to wrestle with the trees for the drinks. The best of all is the "wolf willow" or eleagnus argentea, with silvery leaves and red-brown stems and the aroma of all the romance and joy of life distilling from its tiny yellow flowers. It will grow if transplanted, and grow better still if encouraged where it is growing already. To "encourage" a plant you simply remove its competitors for light, air, and water. Competition makes the plants grow ugly, crooked, and crabbed, just like trust magnates! Of course, you must have a good fence round the entire garden, house, woods and all. But don't keep the garden for show; use it for all it is worth. A certain amount of good, hard wear is good for the lawn; it encourages the blue-grass. Don't make any paths over your lawn unless they are needed to lead somewhere. Even in mid-winter the lawn is a joy to look at if the snow lies evenly over it, as it will if the tree belts are wide enough. It is worth while to have some shrubs and trees with bright colored stems to liven the winter scene. One of the best is the bright red dogwood or cornus stolonifera, which grows freely in all our poplar woods, where it serves as ground cover. There is a livid yellow Russian willow, too, which grows like mad if it gets half a chance. If you still have the gift of youth and expect to grow old on your farm you can also plant spruces for this purpose. It is commonly said that perennial flowers are best because they don't have to be planted every year. I don't think so. The way the weeds grow in and around the clumps is a caution! Of the annuals the finest I know is the Malope, red or white. It has no English name. For the vases Salpiglossia with its elegant shape, delicate pencilling and long endurance, is the premier. Nemophila insignis is a little thing, but it will turn its pale blue flowers persistently to the sky in mid-October as if in wonder why all around it is dead and drooping. Then there are the gorgeous poppies. Huge double poppies, Shirleys, Japanese, dwarfs, California poppies, Clarkia, Civanus and red flax are easy grown. The Godetias need a greater rainfall to bring out their beauty. Mignonette is deficient in odor here. But the tobacco flowers are all right and can be easily grown if great care is taken of the seed bed. Nicotiana affinis is the right kind. Its wonderful scent tells of—well, no matter!

JOSEPH R. TUCKER.

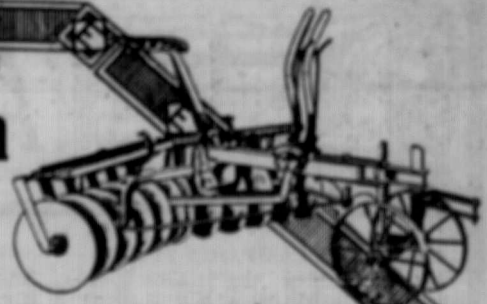
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VANCOUVER, B.C.

as farmers turn among other subjects that will be of vital interest during the coming summer to the growing of a supply of small fruits and vegetables for use on the family table. And by way of introducing the subject I would say that after choosing the location put on a good covering of well-rotted

stable manure, plow deep and thoroughly pack and harrow. From my own experience I do not find very much use for the hotbed as it is not practicable for the ordinary busy farmer or wife. For a few of the transplanting varieties of vegetables that are required for early

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