

The Fall Treatment of Garden Weeds

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PERHAPS in no place do weeds give more trouble or look more unsightly than in the vegetable garden. Many gardens are so badly infested with weeds that constant hoeing and cultivation is required throughout the season in order to keep them out of the rows and give the crop a fair chance. This continuous hoeing and cultivating is tedious, laborious and costly and might to a large extent be done away with and time and money saved by proper attention being given to the garden in the fall of the year after the crop has been removed.

Most of the weeds that are pests in the vegetable garden are annuals such as pigweed and lamb's quarters, or winter annuals like shepherd's purse. The majority of them mature seeds late in the fall after the ordinary cultivation of the garden has ceased and the seeds of most of them will germinate as soon as they are mature. The treatment, therefore, is to plow the ground as soon as the crop is removed to prevent the maturing of the weeds. This plowing must be shallow, not more than three or four inches deep in order to keep the weed seeds in the soil near the surface. Next harrow thoroughly to form a good seed bed and induce the weed seeds to germinate. As soon as a growth of young weeds is obtained cultivate them out. Repeat the harrowing and cultivating several times as by each stirring of the soil more weed seeds will be made to germinate and the young plants destroyed by the cultivation. Thus the soil will be to a large extent freed from the weed seeds that under ordinary conditions would produce a growth of weeds in the crop the following season.

It is a good practice, especially if the soil is apt to be a little damp and cold, to ridge up the garden last thing before the ground freezes. This will hasten the warming and drying of the ground in the spring and when the ridges are harrowed down any weeds that have escaped the fall cultivation will be destroyed.

If patches of weeds are allowed to seed in the fence corners and waste places near the garden, the foregoing treatment will be of little avail as the soil will be reseeded by every wind that blows. All such patches of weeds must, therefore, be cut before they mature their seeds.

Care must be taken not to use manure containing weed seeds. Manure suspected of containing weed seeds should be piled and allowed to heat thoroughly before being applied.

"A stitch in time saves nine." Such indeed is the case in dealing with garden weeds. A little time and trouble spent in the fall when the work is slack, a little

care given to the cutting of weeds in waste places at the proper time, and to the securing of manure free from weed seeds will save a great deal of time and

labor during the busy season of the year, thus lessening greatly the cost of producing a crop and adding materially to the margin of profit.

Variety Tests With Beans and Peas

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AT the beginning of our work with varieties of vegetables, we endeavored to secure the leading varieties that have been placed upon the market. Although we grew 104 varieties of beans and 109 varieties of peas, many are entirely useless. We would suggest the following varieties as those being worthy of trial by our vegetable growers and kitchen gardeners.

Among the best early beans are Earliest Hopkins Red Valentine, Long Pod Forcer, Davis Kidney, Bountiful Bush, Early Red Valentine, Longfellow and New California Wax. Prolific German Wax, Dwarf Horticultural, Stringless Green Pod, Mighty Nice, Rennies' X X X Best Green, Imperial Golden Wax, Giant Stringless Green Pod, Early Red Valentine, ripen somewhat later, giving a succession of picking. Hodson's Wax was decidedly the heaviest cropper we had but New Pearl Wax, Black Wax, Refugee Improved and Large White Marrowfat are worthy

of further trial and test for late crop.

The peas which we would recommend are as follows. Early:—Briggs' Extra Early, Rural New Yorker, McLean's Little Gem, First of All, Prolific Early Market and Rawson's Clipper. Medium,—French Canner, Improved Stratagem, Telegraph, Burpee's Profusion, Heroine, Horsford's Market Garden, Mammoth Melting Sugar, Burpee's Quantity, and Dwarf Gray Sugar. Late,—Rennie's Queen, Matchless, Early Dwarf, Brittany Sugar, Bliss Everbearing, Long Island Mammoth, Black Eyed Marrowfat, Marblehead Early Marrowfat, Prodigious and Royal Dwarf White Marrowfat.

While there are a number of other varieties grown throughout the province, these are the ones that have proved to be the best with us this season. Growers should not form the opinion, however, that are are recommending these varieties only. Further tests may show that some of the others may be superior to those mentioned.

Forcing Tomatoes

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THE variety, "Frogmore Selected," was used in the experiments that were conducted at the Macdonald College, and recorded in the October issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. The benches contained six inches of soil. There is some difficulty in transplanting from a six-inch pot to this depth of soil, and we think that a six inch pan would suit the plant as well, and be better for transplanting on account of being shallower.

The plants were trained to a single stem, and supported with No. 10 wire stuck into the soil at one end and fastened to wires running over the benches. These supports were five and one-half feet long. To these the plants were tied with raffia whenever it was necessary. Strong coarse wool twine makes a good support. This twine is tied to a wire running across the bench below and to a similar wire above. The plants are tied to this the same as where wire is used.

The plants were trained to a single stem by pinching off all but the upper or primary shoot. In pinching off the side branches or suckers, it is necessary to go

over the plant every few days, for they make very rapid growth and unless removed when small they take considerable strength from the plant. When the plants in the pots are getting large it is advisable to use No. 10 wire, about eighteen inches long, as a support.

The temperature was kept at sixty degrees during the night, and in the day time during very dull weather, the house registered about this mark. During bright days the temperature would go up to seventy or eighty degrees according to the day and in the late spring sometimes to ninety degrees.

Tomatoes require plenty of fresh air in order to make stocky, thrifty growth; therefore, particular care in ventilating is necessary. Avoid cold draughts.

It is quite important not to water too heavily. The soil should be thoroughly wet to the bottom of the benches and kept moist but not saturated. In winter, two waterings per week are usually quite sufficient. As the season advances and the plants increase in size, more, of course, will be required. During the early growth of the tomato the atmos-