

Gardening on the Farm

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summer use a place can generally be found for producing sufficient supply in a few small boxes of earth in the house. But for the main supply for summer, fall and winter use sow the seeds right where the vegetable is to grow as soon as the soil is warm and cold winds and frosts are past. And it has been my experience as a whole during the last twenty years that Eastern grown seeds purchased from the most reliable seed firms are the surest to germinate and produce the strongest plants. The reason for which is that in the East the seed is more fully developed and matured than with us where in so many cases only the very earliest varieties of many of our garden vegetables can be matured at all.

Asparagus can be successfully grown, and at least a year's time can be saved by purchasing the roots instead of seed. The various small fruits can also be easily grown, and will produce wonderful crops of fruit. Raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries and currants, both red, white and black, all do especially well. And a good plan is to plant them in rows at intervals across the garden, and planting the vegetables between the rows.

Rhubarb is also a plant that can be easily grown, is a prolific yielder and requires very little room. To get started properly plant in hills in the row, placing the hills three feet apart, and for each hill thoroughly spade a space two feet square and a foot deep, mixing in a liberal supply of well-rotted manure, and in each hill plant one fresh root joint, placed two to three inches below the surface. Keep the surface thoroughly cultivated and do not pull any of the plants the first season and renew the planting every fourth year.

And now for a successful garden. After the plants are once above ground the more often the surface soil is stirred with hoe, rake or more preferably a cultivator the more satisfaction there will be in the pride, interest and profit of the work.

As for the cultivation of flowers and foliage plants, the presence of which goes so far towards making the home both interesting and attractive, there is very little difference in the general principles of selection, care and cultivation. I find the most satisfactory soil for gardening is a loam, or loose friable clay, which can always be improved with a plentiful supply of vegetable mould mixed in.

On account of the scarcity of bees and other insects of like nature in this country, it is often necessary to fertilize the blossom of such plants as the cucumber, melon, squash and pumpkin, doing it by hand, which may prove somewhat tedious but will amply repay the trouble.

C. I. BARAGAR.

Elm Creek, Man.

PLEASURE AND PROFIT

In preparing a garden plot for vegetables, if it has not been well manured last year or either fresh breaking, plowed deep and well-worked, you should first put on a good coating of manure, and then let it lie there till all seed weeds have started in growth, and then plow it deeply, turning all manure in well, then go over it with the drags, making it as level as possible. About the end of March you should begin to prepare a hotbed for starting vegetable seeds, which should be about three feet deep, seven feet long, five feet wide and well trodden down, and then put on three inches of soil; have ready a frame six feet by four feet, two and a half feet at back and one and a half feet in front, on which place a window. You will find this frame very handy for starting in cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, tomatoes, etc. You will also require some shallow boxes twenty inches by twelve inches by two inches deep to put in seeds, as when you want to harden them off before putting them in the ground, they are easily moved about. Be sure and sow seeds thinly. I put mine in singly, as when you take them from the box you can get a nice little ball of soil attached to each plant and of course the soil should be a bit moist before transplanting them.

In this frame you can transplant early lettuce, also put in a few cucumber seeds in small pots or tins and by the time you have got all previous vegetables mentioned from the frame you can put your cucumbers in their place for fruiting. Before doing so place in the middle of the frame a good compost of decayed manure, turf and leaf mould. Then you will get plenty of cucumbers. Be sure and keep them always moist and never let them flag. By the time your cucumbers have started to run you would have pulled most of the lettuce from the centre of frame. Grand Rapids is a good variety to grow.

In returning now to the garden plot, the first vegetable you should sow is parsnip, as they take a long time to grow. About the middle of April sow white turnip and Swede turnip, about April 25 sweet corn, then radish, carrot, beet, cabbage, Savoy, etc. Before you sow your onion seed go over the bed

where you intend to sow them with a roller, as they require a good, firm bottom. After sowing them go over the rows and beat them down with the back of a spade. Then you will get a good supply of onions. Potatoes should not be sown before the beginning of May, because of the late frosts. I advocate the using of whole potatoes about the size of an egg, in preference to a small piece with two or more eyes, as you get better results.

In preparing your bed for peas, which should be sown about the end of April, dig out a trench about one and a half feet deep, and put in one foot of old manure, fill in the earth within three inches of top. Sow your peas and then cover them up. When they begin to grow earth them up with the hoe. I might say here that it is a good plan to earth up beans, peas, cabbage and any variety that is likely to be knocked over with the strong winds we have

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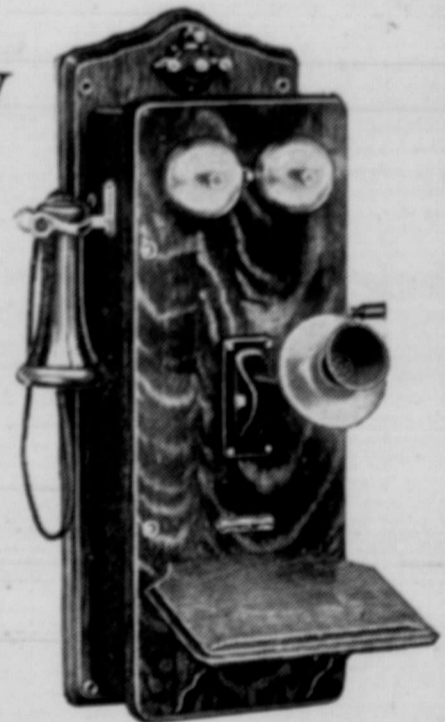
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sometimes, as it supports them. Squashes of all kinds should be sown, as they make such nice jam. First of all make a hole two feet deep, and fill with fresh horse manure and then put in the soil.

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