

✧ The Kitchen Garden. ✧

MARKET GARDENING PROFITABLE.



HERE is no doubt that vegetable gardening is a profitable occupation, where one makes it a specialty and uses some judgment in his work. Indeed many a gardener who understands his business, makes more money off a few acres of ground than some farmers off a farm of one hundred acres. There is scarce a village in Ontario so small that it would not support one or two vegetable gardeners, and the larger towns will consume the product of many gardens. The fact is that many people who have gardens, find it pays them better to buy from a gardener than to grow what few things of each kind are wanted each week, and when visited by a truck wagon two or three times a week, gradually cease to grow the poor and meagre stuff which it has been customary for them to produce, and buy the fine large cauliflowers, beets, melons, etc., which are brought them in attractive form by the gardener.

A writer in *The Country Gentleman* gives a good hint in this connection. He says:—It sometimes appears to me that farmers and gardeners show less ingenuity in developing new lines of work than do men in other occupations. It is not only that there are new crops to try, but new methods of handling and selling the old, to the end that they may bring a better profit. As a gardener, growing hot-bed plants for my own use, I have found that a considerable local trade could be established in them without much effort. I found also that the average village gardener, especially if he was an amateur, had little knowledge as to what he wanted in this line, and some farmers were not much better posted. Most of them were inclined to confine their purchases to cabbage and tomato plants, not seeming to understand that to make a complete garden there was quite as much need of pepper and celery, and cauliflower and sweet potato plants, as of the others. When I would call their attention to the wider variety, with a few words of explanation as to the time and method of planting, they were usually glad to act upon my suggestion that these be added to their list. So that many who would ordinarily have been my patrons to the extent of a few shillings at the most, became buyers for from one to five dollars' worth of plants, and I am glad to believe that the value of their gardens was increased in like ratio.

In any village or suburban community, there is a chance for the building up of a little business in this line, which, while not reaching any great amount, will represent more clear profit than most other occupations of the soil. The time employed in making and attending to the hot beds will be largely in that season of the year when one cannot yet work in the open ground. The capital