

The Orchard and Garden.

RULES FOR THE CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES.

Both in weight and quality, the crop of all Vegetables to be as large as the quantity and nature of the ground sown permits, will be found to increase in proportion as sufficient space is afforded for the proper tillage of the ground during its growth, and for the admission of the requisite influence and circulation of light and air.

The greatest impediment to success in the production of fine Vegetables, next to that pointed out in the preceding paragraph, perhaps, is want of due attention to the proper tillage of the ground. Nothing can supersede the advantages accruing from *deep* culture. When the plow is used, the sub-soil plow should follow it; and all land, whether heavy or light (except a sub-soil of pure gravel,) will be benefited by it. When the spade is used the ground should be dug at least sixteen inches deep.

Good drainage is of equal importance.

It is best to sow and cultivate all crops in drills and rows, in preference to broadcast. The crop is tilled at less expense, both of time and trouble. The hoe, during the growing season, should be continually at work; and, in direct proportion to the complete eradication of the weeds, and to the keeping of the surface of the ground open and loose, will be the weight and quality of the crop.

The rotation of crops should be attended to. Manure should be given to crops above ground, as the Cabbage tribe, Peas, the Potato (for that is not a root) and similar vegetables. These should be followed by root-crops, as Carrots, Parsnips, &c., with less manure.

Those who are experienced cultivators, have no need of these suggestions; but few, who are not so, will be convinced of their importance, until by direct experiment they are satisfied of their value and truth.

We take this opportunity to call attention to the advantage as regards the early maturity of many Vegetables to be derived from starting them in a hot-bed in the Spring. The trouble is not great and the time saved is valuable.

To prepare a hot-bed for this purpose, a quantity of stable-manure should be well shaken up in a heap, about the beginning or middle of February; after remaining three days, it should again be shaken up and turned over, and after an interval of three days repeat the same process. Let the manure remain for three or four days more in the heap, and then form the bed of any dimensions that may be requisite, according to size or number of frames to be used, making the bed about a foot wider than the frame all

around. The bed, when made, should not be less than three feet high; the situation for it should be dry underneath, sheltered from the North as much as possible, and fully exposed to the Sun. In making the bed, beat the manure well down with the fork, place about eight inches of light rich soil in the frame after it is placed on the bed, so that the surface of the soil may be from six to eight inches from the top of the frame. After the bed has stood with the lights on, *but raised a few inches to let the steam escape* for a few days, sow the seed of Cabbage, Tomatoes, Cauliflower, Egg Plant, Celery, Lettuce, Radish, &c. When the Seeds make their appearance above ground, give some air, day and night, in moderate weather, by raising the lights two or three inches,—and as the heat of the bed diminishes, increase the supply of air, to prevent the plants being drawn up. In severe weather, the frame and lights should be covered at night with mats or straw. In high wind, protect the side of the bed also in the same way, or the current of air through will extinguish the heat of the bed. If made early in the season, water will only be required when the earth in the frame becomes quite dry; as the Plants increase in size, the supply of water may be increased. In frosty or cold weather the water should be made milk warm before it is used; this is important.—*Thorburn's Catalogue.*

PEAR CULTURE.

Although pear trees succeed so well with some of our Fruit Growers, yet Pear Culture has made but little progress in the Province. No fruit that can be raised in the open air will bring so high a price as really good pears, and the winter and spring ripening sorts can be sent any distance to market like hard apples. We find in the *Gardener's Monthly* some judicious observations on Pear Culture by Mr. Quinn, which may afford a useful hint to some of our readers:

"I find in our orchard, that when the ground around the trees has been mulched, not only the growth of wood is more uniform, but the fruit is larger. This, too, on pear trees otherwise receiving the same treatment. I was so convinced of this fact, that for the past four years, one part of the pear orchard has been kept covered with hay the whole year, except when removed to apply the spring dressing of manure.

We always procure an abundance of "salt grass" from the low meadows lying within one mile of our place. This we find an excellent substance for mulching the pear orchard. During the winter the hay is carted home and left in heaps in convenient places until summer, when it

is spread over the ground, about half an inch in thickness. This serves a three-fold purpose; it prevents the weeds from growing, and, as stated before, keeps the surface moist. Another advantage is, the pears that drop or are blown off by heavy winds in the fall, are not bruised and rendered unsalable, as they would be, falling on ground without a mulch, especially if the land is stony. It is a wise course to follow under all circumstances, when material can be obtained. It will require about four or five tons to the acre the first year; each succeeding year, half that quantity will be enough, as from one-third to one-half of the old mulch can be again used. The amount saved in the labor of keeping the ground clean, will, in many cases, pay for the mulching material after the first year's outlay, and a much less quantity of manure will be necessary to keep the trees in a healthy condition."

Under the excitement of "pear fever," many persons planted large fields without any preparation of the soil. Others selected long lists of varieties that were unsuited to their soil and climate. Others, again, believed that a fruit tree once in place could take care of itself without further expense or trouble to its owner.

Of varieties, he thinks, about six kinds are enough for any one to grow who markets for profit, and names Bartlett, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Seckel and Vicar of Winkfield as "favorably known in every locality."

NOVA SCOTIAN FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

At the Annual Meeting the following officers were elected:—

President, Dr. C. C. Hamilton.

Vice Presidents, for Kings, Richard Starr; Annapolis, T. W. Chesley; Halifax, G. A. S. Creighton; Hants, Andrew H. Johnson.

Secretary and Treasurer, J. R. Hea, D.C.L.

Corresponding Secretary, D. H. Starr.

Auditor, Geo V. Rand.

Council, for Kings County, Robt. W. Starr, D. R. Eaton, Leander Rand, John G. Bryne, Geo. V. Rand, Dr. McLatchy. Annapolis—Jas. E. Fellows, Oliver Foster, Avard Longley, Isaac Longley. Hants—George Creed, A. J. Rickards. Halifax—Herbert Harris. Yarmouth—Chas. E. Brown.

The following account of the meeting is extracted from the *Colonist*, having been furnished to that paper by "One Present":—

Arriving in Wolfville a little after the hour appointed for the meeting, I found a number of the leading fruit-growers of the country assembled, all eagerly en-