

**PAMPHLET No. 14.**  
**DOMINION OF CANADA.**  
**EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.**

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**THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN.**

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**V**EGETABLES fresh from the garden are much more appetizing than those which have been gathered for some time. More vegetables would be eaten if grown at home, and there would be less desire for the more expensive kinds of food, which would result in considerable saving by the end of the year.

Many persons in cities and towns who have no gardens could produce some vegetables if they would, and it is to try to induce every one to grow vegetables who can that this little pamphlet has been prepared.

*Preparation of the Soil.*—To get the best results the soil should be brought into good tilth. When beginning gardening in cities and towns it is often found that many difficulties have to be overcome before the soil is in really good condition. Old cans, stones, bricks, pieces of wood, broken toys and many other things must be removed or buried so deeply that they will not be troublesome. Then it often happens that the subsoil from the cellar of the house has been thrown over the yard in order to level the ground. This is sometimes of great depth. This subsoil is usually either a stiff clay or sand. Clay, while it will give more hard work, is usually a much better material to start with than sand. If there is much coal ashes in the yard most of them should be removed altogether or buried in one corner of the yard. A little ashes mixed with the clay will help make it more friable or more open, but there is little plant food in coal ashes and there should be a minimum of

them in good garden soil. A mixture of sand and clay makes a soil of better consistency than either one of these alone. An application of lime to clay at the rate of about two tons per acre or about 100 pounds to a garden 25 x 40 feet in size, or even half that quantity and thoroughly mixed with the clay, will help in breaking it up, but the most important thing of all is the manure, preferably rotted stable manure if it can be obtained. This should be well worked through the upper foot of ground whether it be loamy soil, clay, or sand. If the manure is strawy it should be well dug in so that the straw will not be pulled out when the soil is raked. The great aim should be to eventually get the soil into such a condition that it will neither bake nor become hard in a dry time nor dry out readily and both of these conditions will be brought about by the liberal use of manure which adds plant food in an easily available form, and helps to form humus which is so essential to a good physical condition of the soil. Clay soils should not be dug when they are very wet as this will cause them to bake badly; by waiting until they are fairly dry they can be worked more easily and without fear of doing any harm.

A spade, a hoe, a garden rake, and a digging fork are the four chief tools needed in gardening. Narrow hoes and rakes are best for small gardens, or well-made children's tools but with long handles. The surface soil should be made as level, smooth, and as fine as possible. If the soil for two or three