VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Some Practical Advice By One Who Knows.

A SEASONABLE SUBJECT.

A List of the Best Varieties of Each Vegetable Suggested by Prof Hume and Some Directions for Testing the Seed—How Much Seed Per Acre.

Progressive Farmer.

Messrs. Editors:—Seeds may be secured at the corner grocers or from the town druggist, and if particularly fresh, this source of supply is all right; but quite frequently you get the kind of seeds that do not grow. Some seedsmen sell their seeds to dealers sealed in original packages with the year stamped upon them. Such seeds must be considered more reliable, and, at any rate, the buyer should satisfy himself that the seeds are new, good and reliable.

DON'T BUY MANY NOVELTIES.

In the matter of choosing the varieties to plant either for the market or for home consumption every vegetable grower must be more or less a law unto himself. Experience in a certain locality, on a certain given piece of ground counts for more than all the outside advice that can be put together. It is so largely a local matter that the question must always be approached with the feeling "Well, I'd rather not."

Some good general advice, may, however be given.

Do not plant novelties in large quantities—test them first—try only a little. Every year new varieties are brought out by the seedsmen and after a few years we wonder where they have gone. Simply disappeared—proved to be inferior to other more stable and time tried varieties and they have dropped out of sight. On the other hand many of the new things are really genuinely good. Every variety that we esteem highly was new one time, but we must be positive before planting the new things extensively. Then get a little seed of the new thing and see what they will do. Every year a small plot should be devoted to this test work and the new things which prove to be good can be planted more largely another year and may often help the planter to get ahead of his neighbor.

STICK MAINLY TO THE OLD VARIETIES.

But buy the old varieties, the things with which you are acquainted. The very fact that they are old, that they have stood the test of many seasons, is proof that they are the safe ones to plant.

Now for a little specific advice which may prove helpful. In choosing varieties for the home garden some attention should be given to this point. Because quality counts in the price received, but with a long distance to ship, carrying quality is often quite as important.

But what is quality? What is at the bottom of it? The variety? Yes, partly, but more than that, vastly more. It is the variety plus climate and soil and sun and plant food and vigorous growth and—the man back of them all. No matter how good the variety, if it is not well fed and well cared for, grown in congenial surroundings, it will not have the desired quality. Starve it, let it grow by fits and starts, and what is the result? Strong undesirable flavor and something unfit to eat. The question of light and shade has much to do with it. Shade reduces the fiber in the plant, reduces the green coloring matter in the leaves, lessons the strength of flavor. That is why lettuce grown under cloth is so far superior to that produced in the open.

SOME OF THE BEST VARIETIES OF EACH COMMON VEGETABLE.

Asparagus.—Conover's Colosal and Palmetto are both good stocky varieties. The first is perhaps the standard variety to-day.

Beans.—Good string beans can now be had with the strings left out. This was not possible a few years ago. Valentine, Longfellow and Golden Wax are good. Dreer's Pole Lima and Jackson Wonder are good limas.

Beets.—Early Egyptian and Eclipse are good.

Cabbage.—Jersey Wakefield and Charleston Wakefield are hard to surpass for early crop. Nearly all very early cabbages have pointed heads. Danish Ball head for the mountain sections is the best late variety.

Cauliflower.—Early Dwarf Erfurt or Dry Weather.

Celery.—Golden Self-Blanching and White Plume are the only ones worthy of attention in the South.

Corn.—Stowell's Evergreen, Country Gentleman and Cosmopolitan.

Cucumber.—White Spine, Arlington White Spine, Boston Spines. All Spines are the same with variations.

Egg Plant.—New York Improved and Black Beauty.

Lettuce.—Big Boston and California Cream Butter for market. Tennis Ball and Mignonette are good for home use. Iceberg, a loose variety, will grow in hotter weather than almost any other variety.

Cantaloupe.—Rocky Ford is almost unsurpassed. It is the standard market sort, but Jenny Lind, also known as Jersey Button, is a close second in quality.

Carrot.—Danvers and Oxheart.

Irish Potatoes.—Red and White Bliss and Early Rose.

Onion.—Yellow Danvers, Prizetaker and Bermuda.

Okra.—White Velvet.

Peas.—Alaska Gradus, Nott's Excelsior and American Wonder.

Radishes.—The long varieties can be kept in the ground longer without becoming pithy than the round ones, but for very early, choose round varieties. They can be matured in three weeks. French Breakfast and Scarlet Turnip and Long Cardinal.

Turnips.—White Egg is one of the best. Early Milan and White Strap leaved are also good.

Tomato.—Spark's Earliana, Beauty earliest variety. Always choose solid and Ponderosa. The first is the earliest variety. Always choose solid meaty varieties.

Squash.—Escalloped, White Bush and Fordhook. Every grower should try a few of the last variety. It is unsurpassed as a summer squash. It can be used before the rind hardens and keeps well and is good long after it does so.

HOW MUCH SEED PER ACRE.

No definite rule can be given. The following are approximations. When seeds are sown in a seed-bed, more plants are sown than are actually needed to allow for selection.

Beans (drill), one to one and one-half bushels; (pole), one-half bushel; beets, five or six pounds; cabbage, four or five ounces; cauliflower, four or five ounces; celery, four or five ounces; cucumber, one and one-fourth to two ounces; egg plant, four ounces; lettuce, three pounds; cantaloupe, one and three-fourth pounds; watermelon, one and one-half pounds; onion (transplanted), one and one-half pounds, peas, one and one-half bushels; potatoes, about three barrels; radish, eight to ten pounds; okra ten pounds; corn, eight or ten quarts; squash, two pounds; carrot two and one-half pounds.

H. HAROLD HUME,
Horticulturist North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

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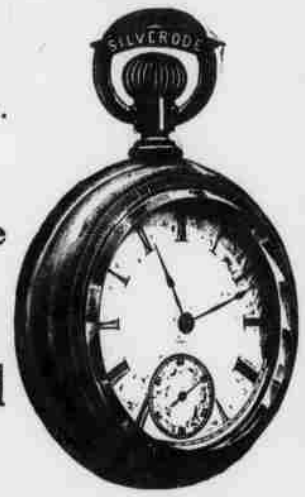

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