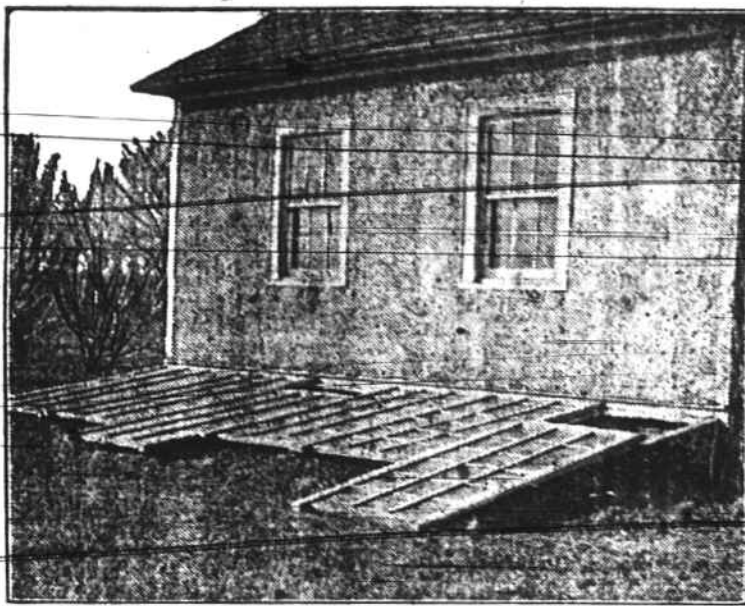


THE COTTAGE GARDENER

GROWING EARLY PLANTS IN BACKYARD HOTBED



Proper selection of seeds with which to plant a garden is stressed by the United States Department of Agriculture. It should be the aim of every home gardener this year to grow a better garden by making the most intelligent use of the available space, not only by employing better methods, but by planting seeds of the highest quality. The first cost of seeds is comparatively small, but it is very important that the seeds planted should be the very best obtainable.

Gardeners are advised to secure the catalogues of reliable seed firms and spend a little time in going over and checking up the seeds that will be needed for planting.

Do not be misled by the highly colored and much-advertised novelties, but stick to the standard, well-known and proved varieties, advise the specialists. Good seeds should never be wasted, so figure carefully upon the amount required and place your order early before the best stocks are exhausted. Perhaps the seeds can be bought from local dealers. If not, orders should go to a seed house in some neighboring city, so the seeds may be received in ample time. When they are received, unpack and check them to see that no part of the order has been overlooked; then store the seeds in a mouseproof, ventilated container, such as a perforated tin box. They should be kept in a moderate temperature, and where they will not freeze or be exposed to moisture.

Have Early Vegetables.
Half the pleasure and profit of a garden is derived from having something to use just as early in the spring as possible. In many cities and towns the local greenhouse men grow thousands of plants which are sold to home gardeners at reasonable prices. It often happens, however, that home gardeners do not have the opportunity to purchase well-grown plants, and must start their own supply of early plants in the house or in a hotbed if they desire to have their crops mature early. Among the garden crops that may be started to advantage in this manner are tomatoes, early cabbage, peppers, eggplant and lettuce; even cucumbers, melons, beans, snap beans, lima beans and sweet corn may be started indoors by using flower pots, paper bands, or berry boxes to hold the soil.

Where the required number of plants is too great for growing in window boxes, a hotbed or coldframe may be provided. The usual method of constructing a hotbed is first to dig a

shallow pit 8 to 18 inches deep, according to locality, and pack it full of fermenting stable manure. The manure, before being placed in the pit, should be turned over once or twice in a pile in order to insure even heating. It may then be packed into the hotbed pit and tramped uniformly. Standard hotbed sashes are 3 feet wide and 6 feet long, and the size of the bed should be made to suit the number of sashes employed. A framework of boards 18 to 24 inches high at the back and about 12 inches high in front is placed over the manure-filled pit to support the sash.

Use for Thermometer.

About 3 or 4 inches of fine garden loam is spread evenly over the manure and the bed allowed to stand four or five days to warm up before any seed is sown. At first the temperature of the bed may run rather high, and it is best to delay planting the seeds in it until it begins to decline. This can best be determined by planting a thermometer with the bulb about three inches below the surface of the soil. The temperature should fall below 85 degrees before seeds are planted.

If glass-filled sashes are not available for covering the hotbed, heavy muslin may be used instead; the glass, however, makes the most desirable form of covering. Care must be taken to give the bed sufficient ventilation to prevent overheating, as it is liable to heat up very rapidly when the sun shines full upon the glass. Watering should be done during the early part of the day and the bed given enough air so that the plants will dry off before night. The bed should be closed before evening, in order to conserve enough heat to carry it through the night in good condition. If the weather should turn severely cold, a covering of straw, blankets or canvas may be thrown over the bed to protect it.

Coldframe Construction.

A coldframe is constructed in exactly the same manner as a hotbed, with the exception that no manure is placed beneath it to supply heat.

Before the plants are set in the garden, either from the hotbed or the coldframe, they should be gradually hardened to outside conditions by giving them more ventilation each day. Finally, remove the sashes entirely on bright days and replace them during the nights. The aim should be to produce strong, healthy plants that will make a quick start when placed in the garden.

TO HAVE AN INDOOR GARDEN

Make Your Basement Work for You by Producing Vegetables Before Outdoor Planting Time.

Nearly every cottage, as well as the larger houses and the city bungalows, are equipped with large basements. Many of these basements have space that is not utilized and many of them have excellent southern and eastern exposures whereby the sun has a chance to play through the windows a large portion of the day.

Make the basement work for you. It is an easy matter to have a miniature greenhouse in most any basement where there is sufficient heat to keep the soil and plants from freezing. At least, plants for setting out when the danger of frost is past can be easily raised in the basement, and small vegetables such as radishes, onions and lettuce can be raised and eaten by the owner long before it is time to plant such things outside.

If the window space in the basement is sufficient a long tray arrangement such as used in greenhouses may be used for the indoor garden. Such a tray will be sufficient to produce a good quantity of small vegetables until time to plant outside and at the same time the tomato, pepper, cabbage and other plants may be started, later to be transplanted to individual boxes for more intensive cultivation, and to be ready to transplant in the open with large, healthy plants.

PRUNING WILL GET RESULTS

Fruit Trees, Vines and Bushes, as Well as Flowering Shrubbery, Requires Trimming.

Fruit trees, fruit vines and bushes, as well as flowering bushes, require careful pruning to get the best results—fruit and flowers.

There is some difference of opinion as to whether the pruning should be done in the fall or in the early spring. Despite the argument as to the time, the pruning is absolutely necessary if crops are to be the best possible under weather, soil or other conditions that may prevail in any particular locality.

In pruning fruit or flowering trees and vines it is well for the one who wields the pruning knife to know just how to do the work. One not acquainted with the operation would best post up on the task before one seriously wounds the trees or vines. It is not a difficult task, but one that is as necessary each year as cultivation—for crops cannot be expected unless the proper attention is given.

"HOE" THE PLANTS IN FLATS

The small spikelike plants that have just come through the soil in the flats in the basement require a little "hoeing" occasionally. Gentle loosening of the ground—not close enough to injure the tender roots—will do the

CEDAR ROCK WILSON AND LANIER SOCIETY NOTES

Program for Wilson and Lanier Literary Societies for April 15th, 1921. Devotional Exercises by Jeff Stokes. Debate. Resolved, that woman suffrage should be abolished. Negative Affirmative Negative Negative
Lucy Tharrington
Boone Sykes Cornelia Boone
Avery Cooke Inez Sykes
Gray B. Murphy Sarah Gilliam
Jokes—Bunnie Pearce, Josie Boone.
The judges decided in favor of the Negative.

MY TRIP TO RALEIGH

By Gray Bird Murphy, of Cedar Rock School
Last Tuesday morning White Level pupils met at the school building to take a trip to Raleigh. After a good number of us had gathered the big truck came to take us. We all got in and were soon on our way. No one can express how happy we felt that morning, as we sang most every kind of song and gave yells nearly every house we passed. We crossed many bridges and saw many beautiful scenes as we traveled on.

After a long, joyful ride we rode down one of the streets in Raleigh. The first place we decided to go to was the penitentiary, but could not get in because they were so busy. There we met Colonel Olds. So he got in the truck with the driver to take us around to show us the many wonderful scenes.

The next place we went to was the Asylum. It was one of the longest buildings I ever saw and is one of the longest buildings in the state. We went inside and Colonel Olds began to take us around. Everything was just as nice as a pin. It was a long walk inside and we saw many crazy women. We went around to the cook room, and there I saw one of the biggest stoves I had ever seen. But as we were passing through one crazy woman started coming after us. I noticed that she was coming nearer. And I began to get a little frightened. So to keep out of the way I dashed forward and liked to have fallen down on the slick floor.

The next place we went to was where the old soldiers were buried. There I saw over fifteen hundred graves. It was a beautiful grave yard in one of the prettiest groves I ever saw.

The next place Colonel Olds took us was to the rock quarry. It was a long and deep hole and some black water and a lot of debris in it. I noticed that many beautiful rocks had been gotten out of which our Capital was built.

Colonel Olds took us around to the Old Soldiers Home. There I saw many old soldiers. Colonel Olds carried us around to see an old soldier who was 100 years, 5 months old. Colonel Olds explained many things to us about him. We were told that he taught school 75 years. All of us shook hands with him. Then I knew that God had given him a long life for his goodness and excellence. By this time it was twelve o'clock, and all the old soldiers went to dinner. Four girls escorted the old soldier to dinner. Colonel Olds said nothing could please him better.

We walked on through the dining room where all the old soldiers were eating. As we passed on through nearly every one stopped eating as we attracted their attention. They had a fine dinner and were treated nicely.

Then by this time we all got into the truck and went up the street to the Governor's Mansion. There we saw many beautiful flowers. We went in and visited the East Parlor, West Parlor and the Dining Room. There we saw a magnificent dining set in a beautiful safe.

Then from the Governor's Mansion we went to the Y. M. C. A. Building and had a good time there.

There we saw a fine place to play basket ball and other games and after shooting some goals we went into another room to wash our face and hands. Some of the boys amused themselves by taking a shower bath. After this we spread our dinner out on a table and ate together. Colonel Olds eating with us. After we were through eating Colonel Olds took us to the Blind School. The first class we saw the girls seemed to be making little bead baskets. In this room I saw many fine baskets and hundreds of other specimens such that I had never seen before, which was done by the blind girls by the wonderful sense of touch. Their skill and accuracy is unbelievable. It was the finest work in art that I had ever seen.

Then we went to the class rooms and heard the fourth grade pupils read some by the sense of touch. The lady teacher was handsome and we had a conversation with her a little bit. Then school closed for the day. So after this we got the blind girls and men students to sing some for us. The girls sang first, singing a quartette, and one girl sang a solo.

It was just a curiosity to see the way they sing. It was the sweetest singing I had ever heard. The melody was just perfect as they sang it so softly and so sweetly.

Then after this the girls went out and four young men came in to sing. They sang several quartettes. This was just equal to the girls. It was the first quartette I had ever heard. Then I knew that they were blind and their ambitions had been high to master such fine arts as they had proved. Then a thought flashed in my mind. I knew that I was not blind but had good eyes and good opportunities.

Then I knew that I had not developed my talents that God had given me. It was a great question for me to ask myself. Had I developed some of my talents as well as theirs had been. No, and I knew that my will and ambition had not been as high.

Then as it was getting a little late Colonel Olds took us to the Raleigh Times office to see them make the papers. It was just a curiosity to see how they are made. But the machine makes them and throws them out as fast as you can count them after they do get ready.

After this we got in an elevator and went to the top of the Commercial Bank. We could see all over Raleigh.

We took along some Raleigh Times and turned them loose while the wind was blowing. We had lots of fun at this.

After this we went in the Woolworth and Gilmer stores. Then we got on the truck and were on our way back. But soon it began to grow dark and it was just glorious riding in the bright moonlight.

'TIS THE LOOKS THAT GET YOU BY.

This is a strange, un-natural world, In which we all must live and die, For in its tumult and its whirl 'Tis the looks that get you by.

Four other senses should we use For our advancement, with the eye; But of these all sight we lose, 'Tis the looks that get us by.

For though a preacher come so near Converting sinners that they sigh; Who pretends to stop and HEAR? 'Tis the looks that get him by.

It on the table, pies and paste, Short-cake, potatoes, chicken-pie, Who ever thinks of how they TASTE? 'Tis the looks that get them by.

Of flowers, roses and blue-bells, Chrysanthemums and fleur-de-lie Who considers how each SMELLS? 'Tis the looks that get them by.

Of fashions, dressed from head to heel In frocks and silks both low and high; Who is concerned with how they FEEL? 'Tis the looks that get them by.

Lawyer, teacher, preacher, clerk, Singer, doctor, salesman, try; In professional and business work 'Tis the looks that get you by.

If public office you would seek, With Nature's law you must comply, For she decides who takes defeat. 'Tis the looks that get you by.

Clothes of the most expensive grade, Shirts and collars, socks and tie, Hats must be the finest made, 'Tis the looks that get you by.

Massages, paints, and powder can, Lip-sticks, coal-tar, and tonics buy; Then people whisper: "That's the man" 'Tis the looks that get you by.

The physically-rugged, strong, Muscles large and sinewy, Other features. Why prolong? 'Tis the looks that get you by.

The socially, polite and kind, Manly acts, and ne'er a lie, Why these virtues should one mind? 'Tis the looks that get you by.

The mentally, alert and keen, And all that knowledge might imply, But what does all this tribute mean? 'Tis the looks that get you by.

The religiously, uprighteous, good, Men who on their God rely, Respect your Maker? Say, who would? 'Tis the looks that get you by.

Then what is life on this old earth Considered from the public eye? 'Tis not a struggle for real worth, But for the looks that get you by. —BILL SMITH.

TEA PARTIES.

There is a fashion in this town Very easy to be found, Known to all the country round: 'Tea Parties.

They are everywhere the go Among the high, among the low, Among the quick, among the slow: 'Tea Parties.

They are held both night and day During hours of work and play, In December, and in May, 'Tea Parties.

If a person disappear, You may find her very near, Wrapt in her one amusement, dear: 'Tea Parties.

Perchance a person you may meet, While walking up or down the street; What instinct guides her dainty feet? 'Tea Parties.

If a gathering crowd you see Ask not what can the matter be But exclaim in language free: "Tea Parties."

If a wee small light you spy, As the hours of morn draw nigh,

'Tis not robbers; make no cry, 'Tea Parties.

They make people leave their work They make girls their duty shirk, They would entice a bloody Turk: 'Tea Parties.

They're always considered right Though it be prayer-meeting night, Though a funeral be in sight: 'Tea Parties.

All other plans may be delayed, All commandments may be stayed That one motto might not fade: "Tea Parties."

No other ideals can be wrought, No other battles can be fought; Other schemes all come to naught, 'Tea Parties.

What makes children want to roam? What leaves parents all alone? What destroys our dear old home? 'Tea Parties.

Why do parents now forget To train their children, or to let Them know that law controls them yet? 'Tea Parties.

Whether they come soon or late, Whether health is at stake, All life's DUTIES are a fake; 'Tea Parties.

To this amusement doth each fly, For this great sport they live and die; What do they want in heaven on high? 'Tea Parties.

WORK AND WIN

A country editor, says the Hibernia Rabbit, published by the Hibernia Bank and Trust Company, of New Orleans, started life poor twenty years ago, has retired with the comfortable fortune of \$50,000. This money was acquired through industry, economy, conscientious efforts to give full value, indomitable perseverance, and the death of an uncle who left the editor \$47,599.50.

\$1.50 Per Year in Advance.

POUSVILLE ITEMS

Just a few words from Pousville as we hate nothing else to do.

The weather has been very pretty for some time so I suppose corn and garden vegetables are beginning to peep their head from under the soil. Guess everybody had a fine time Easter. We hope so anyway. Am sure everybody around Pousville enjoyed themselves fine as a good crowd attended the picnic around Laurel. Misses Mary and Florence Spain, Lunette Benton and Alice and Carole Allen motored over to Jones' Mill or started and crossed the bridge and started to go fishing in the creek but a telephone post stopped them, no injury was done.

Misses Bettie Burnette, Alta West and Eula Gupton, Messrs. Victor Joyner and Willis Gupton went to Centerville Monday afternoon to a ball game.

Misses Beulah Nelms, Lora Wood, Temple and Bettie Burnette, Messrs. Elmo and Earle Burnette, Willis Gupton motored over to Flat Rock to the singing Sunday afternoon, April 16, all on a five passenger Ford. They reported a good time.

We were all surprised to learn that Mr. Charlie Gupton and Miss Delle Ricks were married Saturday afternoon, April 15, so we had a bride and groom to attend church service Sunday.

We are very sorry to report that our pastor, Rev. J. U. Teague, has resigned.

Miss Hallie Joyner spent Saturday night with Miss Temple Burnette, April 22.

Miss Atta West spent last Saturday night with Miss Eula Gupton.

Miss Bettie Burnette has just returned to her home near Bobbitts after spending a few weeks with her relatives down here.

Miss Lora Wood, who has been visiting Miss Beulah Nelms, has just returned to her home near Halifax. We will call again in the future.

PURE SUDS.

