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THE ESSENTIALS OF SUCCESSFUL GARDENING.

THE first essential of successful gardening is a good garden spot, one with a deep, rich, loose, well-drained soil, and one well enclosed so as to keep out the live stock and the poultry.

The next essential is thorough preparation of the soil, liberal fertilization, and constant cultivation. Most vegetables need abundant supplies of plant food if they are to do their best, and many gardeners fail simply because they do not feed their plants well enough. We believe in stable manure as the basis of fertilization for the garden, but it should usually be applied in the fall, and for most garden crops needs to be supplemented with commercial fertilizers.

A third essential is good seed. It is useless to expect the best success with any crop if good seed are not used, and no falser "economy" was ever practiced than the using of poor seeds in the garden to save the few cents extra that good ones might cost.

Another essential is good tools. The hoe, the rake and the spade are all useful implements, but they must not be depended on for working the garden. Ordinarily the garden should be so laid off that most of the cultivation can be done by horse power; but whether or not this is done, the cultivators, seed drills, and wheel hoes made especially for garden work will pay for themselves in a very short time. A sprayer is another implement the gardener needs.

But the great essential for successful gardening is a love of the work. Lord Bacon said of gardening, 300 years ago: "Indeed it is the purest of human pleasures," and his words are true today. Nowhere does one come into such intimate relationship with the individual plants with which he works, or get in closer touch with nature. And nowhere does one get more substantial rewards for more pleasant labors.

We have tried to make the following pages just as practical as may be—tried to make them tell just how to raise this or that vegetable or fruit, for we know that there is much need of instruction along these lines. But we trust that each reader will feel in them also that love of the garden which should thrill in the heart of every farmer. This Southland of ours should be a land of gardens. The farm without an ample garden, conveniently located, where a varied succession of vegetables is kept up the year round, and where berries and small fruits ripen the



whole summer long, scarcely deserves the name of a farm. Nor do we believe that the farmer has lived up to his opportunities if he has not found space somewhere and time somehow for the more esthetic sort of gardening, for the fragrant old-time herbs, for hardy flowers, and clambering vines, and blossoming shrubs. Garden making is a work for every one on the farm, for the farmer and his wife and his children; and not until a good garden is recognized as an essential part of every farm home, will country life attain its fullness of beauty and comfort.

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