

Some Vegetables You Should Grow.

Practical and Specific Directions for Growing Some Vegetables Too Often Neglected in the Farm Garden.

By Prof. W. F. Massey.

SOME OF our friends says that we must consider that many of our readers are in the A B C class in garden matters, I will offer this series of short articles for the benefit of such. While most will be for Southern growers, I hope that some further north may be helped.

EARLY AND LATE BEETS.

Beets are among the earliest vegetables to be sown, either in the home or market garden. In the far South sow them in late January and in the upper South after the middle of February. If not caught by a freeze just as they come up they will stand a good deal of frost after the leaves expand. I never use animal manure with beets as it is apt to make them grow forked. I use a high-grade commercial fertilizer especially high in nitrogen and potash. This is used in the furrows, 500 pounds per acre, and bedded on. The beds are rolled flat or nearly so, and the seed planted. I have never yet found a garden drill that will sow beet seed correctly and it pays to plant by hand. I use a wooden wheel somewhat larger than a wheelbarrow wheel, with rounded pegs set three inches apart on the rim. This is rolled along the rows, and the seed dropper drops a seed in each hole made by the pins and tramps on it. Each beet seed will make several plants, and the

HOW TO GROW SNAP

String beans, or as they are commonly called in the South, "snaps," are grown in every garden. But in most of the home gardens in the South I have noticed that there is little attention given to the keeping up of a constant succession for the table or market. A few beans are sown in the spring, and no more. Now I have always had these beans ready for use every day in the year. I plant a few rows, and as soon as they are up plant more, and so on till in the climate of North Carolina the last sowing is made the first of September. In some seasons a later sowing may do well. From the last sowing, which I make the largest, I get my supply of winter snaps. The green pods are gathered and put into strong brine in stone jars, and weighted to keep them under the brine. These can be taken out in winter and soaked in fresh water over night and are nearly as good as the fresh pods.

These beans do not need high fertilization with nitrogenous manures, but are better with merely a little nitrate of soda to give an early start, and mainly supplied with acid phosphate and potash. As fast as the pods are taken from a planting, the vines are turned under and the land prepared for a later crop of some sort, either late potatoes or cabbages. On the heavily fertilized truck farms where only one crop is grown from the beans, the vines are plowed under and the land leveled and left for the volunteer crop of crab grass for hay, and two tons per acre of hay better than timothy is often made without the sowing of a seed. To get the earliest beans, plant in North Carolina early in

thinning is greatly facilitated by this apparently slow method of planting.

The earliest market beet is the Egyptian. It is of a fine dark red color and good when half grown but almost worthless later. Eclipse is nearly as early and far better in quality. For home use I like the Early Bassano, but its tops are too big for the market man to bunch well, and its color is too light for those who think a beet must be red to be good, but in quality there is no superior in my opinion.

The Swiss chard is a species of beet that is grown for the midribs of the leaves, which are cooked like asparagus, and can be pulled all summer. If you have never grown any chard, try it this summer and you will have a vegetable better by far than any beet root.

In July sow seed of the larger forms of Blood Turnip beets, and in the fall throw furrows from each side over the roots and they will keep well all winter.

AND LIMA BEANS.

April, earlier farther south. There will, of course, be some risk of frost, but if they escape this they will be early, and if killed it is only a few seed lost.

The dwarf Lima beans, and in fact the climbing sort as well, will need heavier nitrogenous manuring than the snap beans. In fact, I am inclined to think that the Lima beans, though legumes, do not harbor the nitrogen-fixing bacteria on their

roots. At least I have never found them on mine, and would like to know if others have found them. The bush limas are earlier than the climbing sorts, and if the pods are gathered fast as filled, they will continue blooming and bearing all summer.

ASPARAGUS NOT HARD TO GROW.

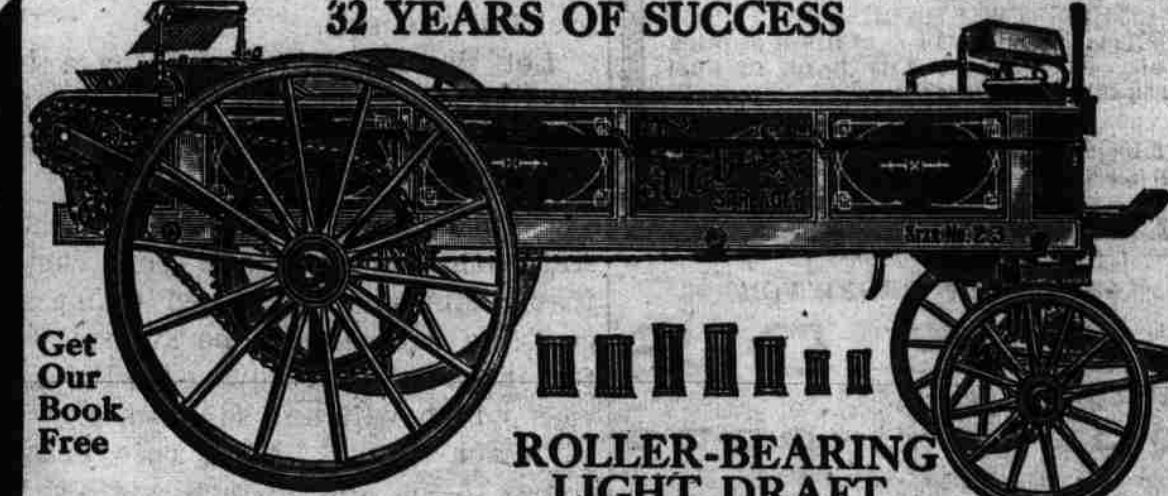
I once had an old asparagus bed, made in the old way, by digging out the entire bed in a hard clay soil two feet deep and putting rocks in the bottom with the idea of preventing the roots running down into the subsoil, which they never try to do. The result was a sort of basin to gather the water from the surrounding clay soil, and the asparagus was late and poor. There had been labor and expense enough spent on that bed to have planted an acre properly, and the soil selected was the heaviest in the garden.

I have not bought an asparagus root for more than thirty years, as I found that with a rich and heavily manured soil I could get asparagus sooner from the seed, and with far less expense. The soil should be light

and warm to get an early crop. It should be deeply prepared, well manured the year previous, and in preparing to sow the seed, furrows are run 4 feet apart. These furrows should be cleaned out a foot deep, and should be half filled with well rotted manure. An inch or two of soil is pulled over this and the seed sown in a continuous row as early in spring as the condition of the soil will allow its preparation.

As the plants grow, thin them out to two feet apart, and you can transplant the thinnings to similarly prepared rows if needed, but I prefer to have the plants remain where they germinate, and seed is cheap enough to plant the whole at once. Two rows of onions can be sown between the rows, and the whole cultivated with

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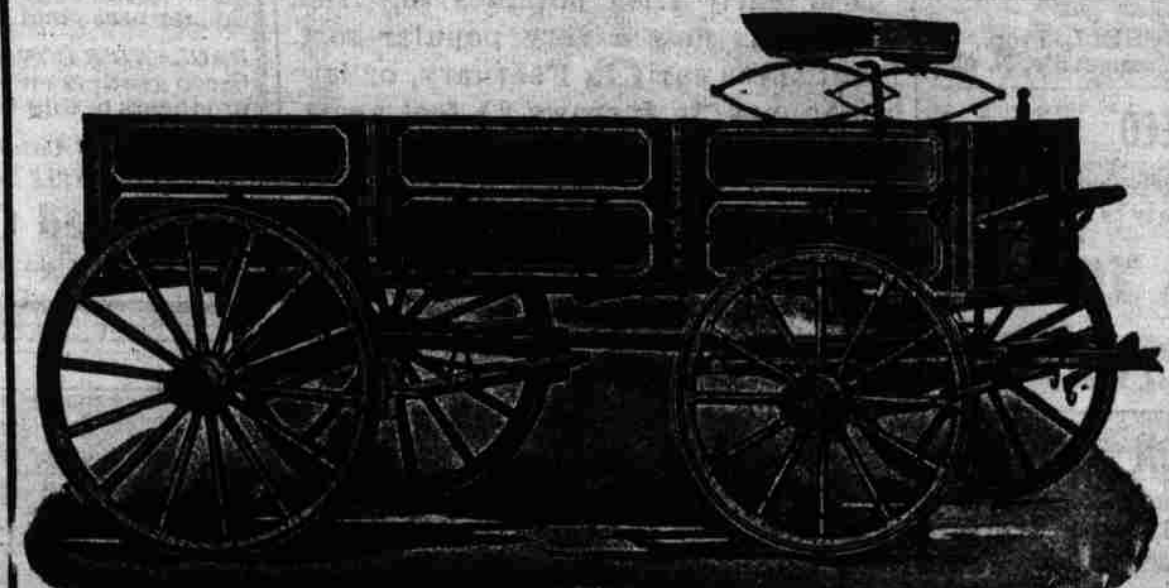
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