

THE GARDEN AS AN AID TO HEALTH.

We All Need Fruits and Vegetables—Have a Strawberry Patch—Vegetables Winter and Summer.

Messrs. Editors: The time is near at hand when not only the tillers of the soil, but our entire population will be compelled as a duty as well as a privilege to look more to the health of the individual family, thereby greatly benefiting the progress and efficiency of labor in every avenue of life.

We naturally crave ripe, luscious fruits, crisp and fresh vegetables and these should not be displaced with bread and salty meat.

We can and should have ripe fruits from May 1st until winter apples are gone. By all means, have a good strawberry patch, that will last from April 25th to June 1st. The following four varieties will ripen through this period: Virginia Lady Thompson, Bubach and Gandy.

While the average farmer hardly finds time to grow even for his own use, the more rare vegetables, as celery, parsnips, salsify, endive, we should by all means have growing in our winter gardens the more common vegetables such as cabbage, turnips, onions, beets, spinach, lettuce, etc. Our Yellow Potato onions set in September are now ready for the table. Early Globe beets sown at same time will be ready for market in April.

Cabbage set in January or February, or, better still, set in November will make fine solid heads first of May. Onions, cabbage, lettuce, beets, salad turnips and many other vegetables will stand for zero weather if put out in time to get well established before the severe cold weather sets in.

Just a word about the preparation of our spring garden. This work should have begun last summer by growing peas or soy beans on it. Vines having been removed for hay, a good dressing of stable manure should be worked well into the soil. Plow deep and pulverize well.

W. L. KIVETT.

Gulford Co., N. C.

How to Grow Early Peas.

Messrs. Editors: My wife and I try to follow your advice and have a garden the year round. We try to grow everything we like and some things we do not like. So, of course, we have to give our garden quite a good deal of attention.

Now we are not experts in raising "garden-truck" at all, for we make nearly as many failures as successes. However, if you will call on us any time in the year we will feed you on more than one kind of fresh vegetables.

We get as much real good out of English peas while in season as anything we grow. Most people get less. Last season we had two rows 75 feet long which supplied us with all we wanted to eat and we gave the neighbors a lot, and canned quite a lot in tin cans, and have been having good peas ever since, when we cared for them.

Here are a few vital points in raising peas: They should have good rich soil, well prepared. If you use stable manure, it should be plowed in in the fall, but never at planting time. The Early May pea is the only pea we ever raise. They can be bought for 10 cents per pound retail (in bulk).

Plant early. If you can possibly get your ground right, plant by February 14 anyway. And in two or three weeks plant again for succession. We find there is no use to try to grow English peas after the weather gets hot. We prefer to

plant them in single rows, although they do well planted in double rows. They should be staked when they begin to send out their runners, with canes and brush 2½ feet high. Plant them thick, thicker, thickest. About one-half bushel to 75-foot row.

C. S. ARCHER AND WIFE.

Valentine Beans.

Messrs. Editors: One of the best side crops to be grown along on the farm is snap beans. Two crops can be grown in this part of the country, and always to a profit, if one knows when to plant and the kind to plant. The Red or Black Valentine can be planted as early as February 20th and be reasonably sure of no frost that will kill. Then again, September 15th for a fall crop. The Golden Wax has been grown also as a fall crop, and if picked and marketed when the little bean in the pod is about two-thirds grown, there is no reason why \$75 to \$125 worth of beans can not be sold from an acre, and this with a very little cost.

The greatest mistake the beginner makes is that he does not plant seed enough. It requires not less than a bushel of seed per acre to insure a perfect stand and that is what counts in any crop.

It does not require skilled labor to pick or pack beans preparatory to shipment and any nice box that will carry about a bushel will do as well as a costly hamper. In beans, the main thing is quality. Beans that are tough should not be mixed with nice, crisp ones, neither should little beans that have not developed well. Always keep in mind that quality sells snap beans.

A. H. MOORMAN.

Gardening—A Recipe.

First, get your garden,—not his, nor hers, nor theirs, nor its, nor any other than yours. Of the exact and precise and invariable ten points of the law of success in gardening, possession is the first nine. You could manage the others without assistance, most likely, but I've had so much advice that never cost me anything until I tried to profit by it, that I should feel ungrateful in giving a measure less than full, heaping up and running over.

Don't imagine that the shape, size, meets, bounds, courses or distances of the garden aforesaid must conform to any prescription whatever. Yours is a plain case of choosing to suit your limitations and fancies, without possible offense to the proprietors or danger of interference from the Department of Agriculture.

Don't allow local custom to hamper you, nor neighborly criticism to intimidate you, nor mistakes to frighten you, nor failure to worry you. This is to be your garden, isn't it? What you are to get out of it isn't to be measured by anybody's dollar mark but yours, and when the time arrives for estimating you are not going to use a dollar mark at all. If you do, then take this with it—gardening was ordained of the gods before your limitations were taken into consideration.

W. A. B. HEARNE.

Pitt Co., N. C.

Small Potatoes for Seed.

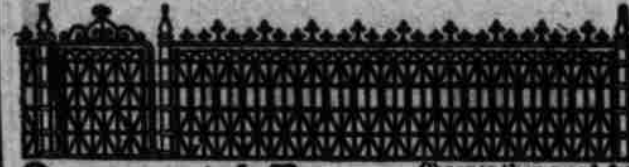
I have a patch of late planted Triumph potatoes, and two-thirds of them are small; not larger than a partridge egg. Are they any good for early seed?

E. M. G.

Editorial Answer: Experiments indicate that seed selection is of value with potatoes as well as other crops. The small potatoes are not as good for seed as the potato of ideal

size and form, but, of course, these small potatoes will do for seed, and under favorable conditions will produce a crop only a little less valuable, comparatively, than the larger ones.

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