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MAKE YOUR GARDEN AND ORCHARD COUNT



PART OF A 30-ACRE FIELD OF CABBAGE. FARM OF W. W. REYNOLDS, MERIDIAN, MISS.

IN variety and abundance of vegetables and fruits for every month in the year, no section of the country can equal the South; but whether we are availing ourselves of the opportunities nature has given us is to be doubted. Certain it is that far too many Southern farm homes are without the year-round gardens that experience long ago showed we could easily have, and that mean so much in saving grocery and doctor bills.

In this issue it is not the production of fruit and truck on a commercial scale with which we are particularly dealing, but rather the growing of abundant supplies for home use, marketing the surplus should there happen to be one. What we need to do first of all is to

supply our home demand; for when this has been done we may be assured that each year we will be keeping at home many millions of dollars that are now going to other sections.

Prof. Massey and others in this issue are telling in detail how to have fruits and vegetables the year round, and here we will only stress a few of the essentials that must be looked to.

1. **Fruits and Vegetables Are the Best Kind of Cash Crops.** In the rush for a so-called "cash crop" don't forget that it is what we save, rather than what we make, that counts, and that good orchards and gardens, by enabling us in large measure to dispense with the grocer and doctor, are "cash crops" in the very best sense.

2. **Don't Expect the Orchard and Garden to Take Care of Themselves.** If

you take care of them they will later do likewise by you; but planting an orchard or garden and giving them no further attention usually means so much effort and money wasted.

3. **Have the Orchard and Garden Near the House.** Attention to this matter will save many steps for the good wife, and will insure better attention to the cultivation and general management.

4. **Make Your Garden Fertile.** Having a really good garden on poor land is almost an impossibility, and this is one of the first and most important details to be attended to. For the average garden an abundance of well rotted stable manure is the best fertilizer, but of course

this will in most cases have to be supplemented with applications of commercial phosphoric acid and potash.

5. **Plant Only the Best Varieties.** We have lost many thousands of dollars through planting trees and seeds that later proved worthless, and to get the most from garden and orchard it is essential that only dependable seedsmen and nurserymen be patronized.

6. **Keep the Garden at Work.** Just as labor and machinery yield the greatest return when steadily employed, so it is with the garden. Two and even three crops a year are easily possible, and unless you are getting these you are falling short of your opportunities.

In making for "Diversification and Independence in 1915" well tended gardens and orchards are going to be mighty factors. Are yours what they should be?

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