

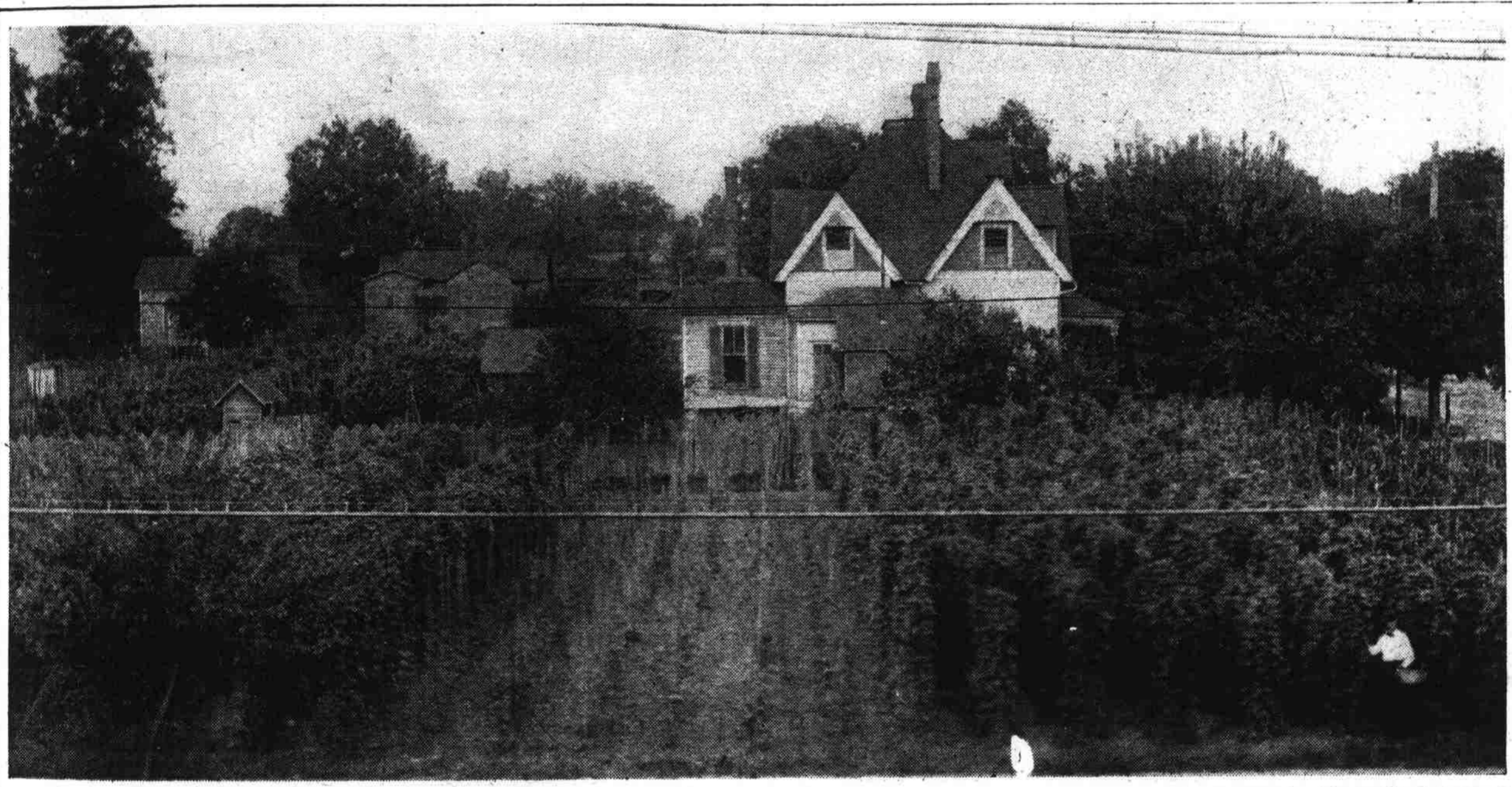


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## A Good Garden the Best of All Cash Crops



HOME GARDEN OF J. W. CATES, BURLINGTON, N. C.

**I**N SUPPLYING the home needs, there is a place on every single farm in the South for a good garden. No farmer, in fact, is farming as he should unless an ample supply of wholesome vegetables is provided for every day in the year, and the business of doing this is just as big and important a job as any part of the farm work.

The trouble with too many of us has been that, in our blind devotion to one so-called "cash-crop," whether cotton, tobacco, or what not, we have failed to appreciate the big economic truth that it is not alone in growing a big crop that real farming success lies, but rather in retaining the largest possible percentage of the wealth thus created, and using it for the development of our farms and the betterment of our homes and our neighborhoods.

This is the overwhelmingly important fact that the all-cotton farmer or the all-tobacco farmer has too seldom failed to perceive. Often, far too often, the garden, the poultry yard, the hogs and the cattle are neglected, because they may not mean ready cash returns, it being forgotten that as a means of saving money they are actually better "cash crops" than all-cotton or all-tobacco ever have been or ever will be.

So let's resolve right now that, come what may, the new year, every month and even every day of it, will find our garden busy, conserving our health and adding to our material wealth. Elsewhere in this "Garden and Truck Crops" number, in letters and special articles, we are told in detail how to

have good, all-the-year gardens, and here we will only summarize a few of the main essentials.

**1. Locate the garden near the house, and have it well fenced.**

A garden convenient to the kitchen saves the good wife many steps; and nearness to the barn and poultry yards is also a convenience in supplying plenty of manure. Of course a good fence is one of the first essentials.

**2. Make the soil rich.**

A good garden without a deep, rich, mellow soil is almost impossible, and so long as the plant foods are rightly balanced it is difficult to make the garden soil too rich. Stable manure at the rate of twenty or thirty tons an acre is a good beginning in getting a fat, fruitful garden, and this should be supplemented with a liberal application of acid phosphate, and some potash where it can be had.

**3. Keep the garden at work.**

We wouldn't have much patience with a hired man who worked till noon and then loafed the rest of the day; but, after hiring our gardens to do a full year's work for us, we are content to let them loaf one-half or even two-thirds of the time, making weeds and grass instead of food for the family. Bear in mind that there *is* such a thing as a year-round garden, and that you may have one—a garden that will save you grocery, doctor and drug bills every single day in the whole twelve months of the year. If yours is not such a garden, now is the best of all times to get busy and make one.

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