

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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INDEX TO THIS WEEK'S PAPER.

	Page.
A Well Planned Garden.....	7
Are You 21 Years Old?.....	17
Bordeaux Mixture: How to Make It.....	16
Climatic Advantages of the South, A. L. French.....	13
Eggs for Hatching, Uncle Jo.....	12
Early Potato Crop, W. F. Massey.....	4
Growing Large Onions, W. L. Kivett.....	2
Gardening for Home and Market, Sincere.....	3
Hard-Thinking as a Money Crop, T. J. W. Broom.....	6
How a Tin Can Will Help You, H. H. Hume..	1
Important Gardening Notes.....	1
Lawns, Laying Them Off and Caring for Them, Mrs. Walter Grimes.....	8
Rotate Garden Crops, H. H. Hume.....	2
Some Gardening Hints, Mrs. P. C. Reade....	13
Test Your Seeds Before Planting, Dr. F. L. Stevens.....	5

OUR GARDENING SPECIAL.

We are very proud of this week's paper—our Gardening Special. (We first planned it for a Gardening and Trucking Special, but the Gardening articles proved so numerous that we have had to postpone our Trucking Edition to some later date.) Take the articles as they come and consider them a moment. Two articles from Prof. Hume, formerly Horticulturist of the North Carolina Experiment Station, have first place, and you will thank him for his suggestion about the simple tin can device for transplanting, while his advice about rotating garden crops deserves special attention. Too many farmers who are very careful about field rotation neglect this principle entirely in dealing with their gardens.

While our other articles deal in a general way with garden crops—including two or three strikingly helpful letters by our women readers—we have also a special letter on onions by Mr. Kivett and one on potatoes by Prof. Massey. And right in connection with this reference to potatoes, we are reminded of our spraying article on page 16. When the potato crop can be increased 52 per cent by spraying, it is worth while to consider this prevention of damage by diseases and insect pests; and when, as has been demonstrated, this spraying can be done at a cost of a dollar an acre a time, it becomes difficult to think of a better way to invest the money.

A well-planned garden is vastly better than one with poor plans or none at all. It is possible to profit not a little from the garden-planning article on page 7 and the elaborate diagram which accompanies it. It pays to "have a place for everything" even in a garden.

Purity in seeds is sought by every progressive farmer, and it is not less important that the seeds should be live, strong, and vigorous in their ger-



IMPROVED TOOLS IN GARDEN WORK.

Some farmers—we hope there are none in The Progressive Farmer Family—put off garden work on the women of the family and even then leave them with only the poorest of tools. From seeding to harvesting it pays to use modern and up-to-date implements. "The use of a wheel hoe," as the Illinois Experiment Station says, "saves labor, even when much of the tillage is to be done by a horse."

minating qualities. A simple method of testing with some important data as to percentages of viability of different seeds is given by Dr. Stevens on page 5. It is a seasonable article.

There are other excellent features of this week's paper not bearing on gardening topics, but they must go over for comment on another page. We have enough good gardening matter to satisfy one general inspection of the paper.

HOW A TIN CAN WILL HELP YOU.

A Suggestion That You Will Do Well to Remember at Transplanting Time.

Messrs. Editors: Many different receptacles may be used in which to grow plants so as to have them of good size before putting them out in the field. Flower pots, paper pots, tomato cans, split wood boxes and paper bags are perhaps the most important. Of these, paper pots, tin cans and split wood boxes are best, though for a few plants, paper bags of two-pound size, made of heavy glazed paper, answer well. Cut them to four inches in height, fill with three inches of soil and plant seeds in them.

Tin cylinders made from old tin cans or from tin secured from the tin-smith, are excellent. If made from old tomato or corn cans, the cans should be placed in a fire and heated just enough to cause the tops and bottoms to drop off. The seam can be melted apart, too, but it takes a little

too much heat, enough to seriously injure the quality of the tin, so it is best to open them by cutting from top to bottom. Then wrap a bit of wire around them to hold them in place, or bend the edges with a stove-pipe joint so they will catch and hold in the form of a cylinder, no bottom and of course no top. Set these on a board in the frame or kitchen, or somewhere, where it is warm, fill with good soil and plant seeds of tomatoes, egg-plant and peppers, cucumbers, melons, cantaloupes and squashes for the early crop. When the plants are well grown and the weather is right, transplant by scooping out a hole deep enough to receive the can, set the can in place, unlock the joint or slip the wire off and there stands the plant in its ball of earth. Draw the earth up about it, and that plant will never know it has changed its quarters.

H. HAROLD HUME.

Important Gardening Notes.

Take up all rubbish and burn it before drawing on the manure. Plan the garden with long rows so it can be cultivated with a horse. It is not necessary that one vegetable shall occupy a whole row.

Build a hot-bed or cold frame and start early vegetables—tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce. Radishes can be grown for early use in cold frames with little labor.

Give the garden a dressing of well rotted stable manure. Additional manure or fertilizer can be added as needed when planting.

Does the garden contain a strawberry bed, and are there a few rows of black-cap and red raspberries, blackberries and currants along one side? If so, the old wood should be taken out and the laterals trimmed. Cut them well back so there will be a large number of new fruit laterals formed. If the garden does not have these luxuries, make arrangements to set some this spring.—Chicago Rural Voice.

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A GOOD GARDEN AND A GOOD DAIRY USUALLY MEAN GOOD FARMING.