

SOME GARDENING HINTS.

Mrs. Reade Notes Several Points That are Sometimes Overlooked.

Messrs. Editors: That a common garden is an open book to most of us, we will concede; so we will only speak of some points that are overlooked.

Our good man does most of the work; but we may still claim it as an index to our general house-wifery; for if he has not left off his first love he will talk the matter over with us, and we are his right arm of help to see that nothing is overlooked and that the garden is planted in time, even if we have to do it ourselves.

For an Early Garden Have Land Plowed in Winter.

This is a matter of prime importance, as by this means the seed-bed is firm, the warm soil on top, where the continued freezing has left it light with no clods to interfere with the growth of the young plants. And too, while the good man is away superintending things of more importance the good wife may do this planting of the first seeds before the land is hardly dry enough for the plow, and be along with the best gardener (pleasant rivalry!) with the earliest vegetables. But all the good culture and the fertilizer cannot overcome the loss of a week or two in early planting.

The planting of the full garden comes in a few weeks later, and practically everything grown in the garden may be planted then. Make no discriminations, although you disobey all of the seedsmen, for we would rather lose one little planting than to be always behind.

What a glorious affair is the first full vegetable dinner, when the balmy breezes of June are wafting in at every open window and the whole world is rejoicing!

What a wonderful thing this garden may be! No forbidden fruit now; all is so good for the health of the whole family! How we would like to date our letters from the "Garden-of-Green-Leaves" or "Garden-of-Golden-Fruits!" The fancy of garden parties is now quite popular. What could be nicer in the sunny days of June? They belong, too, to the good form of all ages, dating back to the Garden of Eden.

Plowing the Garden.

The vegetable garden in the country is not made a source of revenue unless near to market. We sow liberally, but what are we to do with the surplus vegetables? There are many ways to save them all. We give of the first fruits to the hiring, for he will leave his garden any day to plant ours first and best; and the giving is a source of bounty to us.

We would arrange our gardens so that the permanent plants are at one side, and do not interfere with thorough plowing of the part which is planted annually. However, let us have the whole thing in long rows and get the hired man to run the plow along down these rows both in winter and summer. In some of these rows we have the asparagus bed, the rhubarb, the horse-radish, the sage, the thyme, the curled parsley; and against this the rows that are planted annually, but lie in ground all winter, such as beets and parsnips, the latter of which come in in February and March at a very scarce time and make an admirable side dish.

Don't Omit Butter-Beans.

I consider butter-beans the best all-round vegetable in the whole lot. They may be planted in early March. These beans can lie in ground all winter, and if we do not look out we could gather a crop from the volun-

teers before ours bloom. We can save the entire surplus for winter. Cooked in five times their bulk of water, with salt, for four hours, strained through the colander and hurried into the covered dish with a liberal lot of butter and pepper, and opened after ten minutes, they make a dainty dish fit to set before a king.

The Matter of Fertilizers.

Many gardens are overdone in the matter of fertilizers. This invites insect pests and disease, and causes the garden which looked like an emerald sea in the spring to be in the hot days of August a thing of the past when we would like to be still enjoying its fruits.

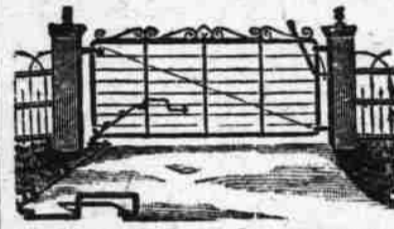
A friend of mine told me with sorrowing heart she could have no success with roses. I looked to see if the cause could be ascertained, and I found stable manure among the stalks. This is another proof of the power of small things, and it is a general rule, fertilizers are all right in moderation on the roots, but should not touch the stalk.

If the land is inclined to be low and sour, use some form of potash and chip-yard manure. If on the other hand it has been leached out by the poor process culture, use acid phosphate and green stuffs. After this, scrapings from the barn-lot are best, and will out-last fertilizers.

Now, with faithful attention, you may count on an ever-green spot and a fountain of joy.

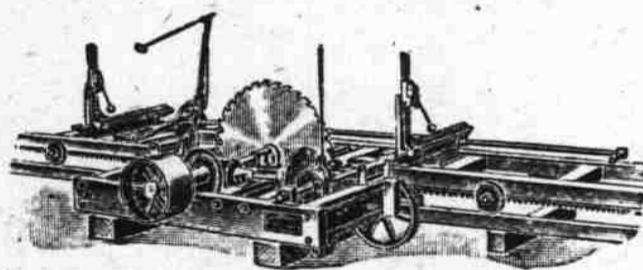
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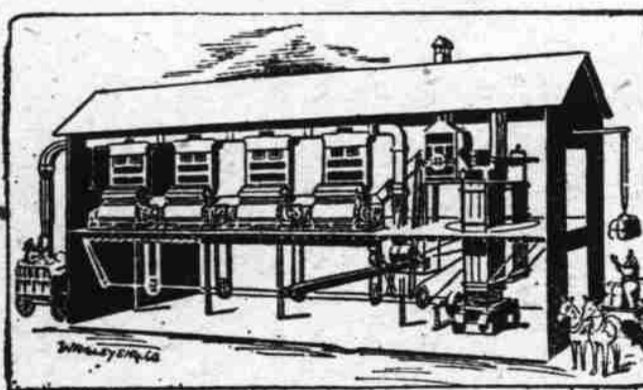


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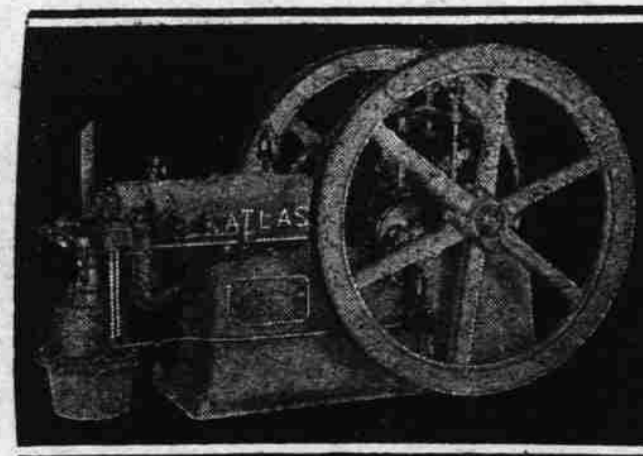
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