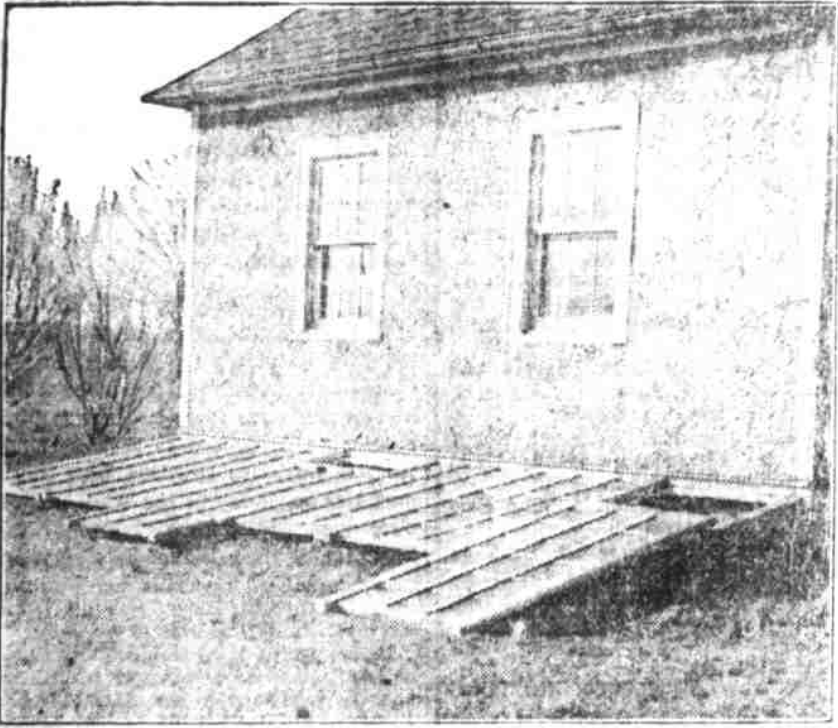


THE COTTAGE GARDENER

GROWING EARLY PLANTS IN BACKYARD HOTBED



Proper selection of seeds with which to plant a garden is stressed by the United States Department of Agriculture. It should be the aim of every home gardener this year to grow a better garden by making the most intelligent use of the available space, not only by employing better methods, but by planting seeds of the highest quality. The first cost of seeds is comparatively small, but it is very important that the seeds planted should be the very best obtainable.

Gardeners are advised to secure the catalogues of reliable seed firms and spend a little time in going over and checking up the seeds that will be needed for planting.

Do not be misled by the highly colored and much-advertised novelties, but stick to the standard, well-known and proved varieties, advise the specialists. Good seeds should never be wasted, so figure carefully upon the amount required and place your order early before the best stocks are exhausted. Perhaps the seeds can be bought from local dealers. If not, orders should go to a seed house in some neighboring city, so the seeds may be received in ample time. When they are received, unpack and check them to see that no part of the order has been overlooked; then store the seeds in a mouseproof, ventilated container, such as a perforated tin box. They should be kept in a moderate temperature, and where they will not freeze or be exposed to moisture.

Have Early Vegetables.

Half the pleasure and profit of a garden is derived from having something to use just as early in the spring as possible. In many cities and towns the local greenhouse men grow thousands of plants which are sold to home gardeners at reasonable prices. It often happens, however, that home gardeners do not have the opportunity to purchase well-grown plants, and must start their own supply of early plants in the house or in a hotbed if they desire to have their crops mature early. Among the garden crops that may be started to advantage in this manner are tomatoes, early cabbage, peppers, eggplant and lettuce; even cucumbers, melons, beets, snap beans, lima beans and sweet corn may be started indoors by using flower pots, paper bands, or berry boxes to hold the soil.

Where the required number of plants is too great for growing in window boxes, a hotbed or coldframe may be provided. The usual method of constructing a hotbed is first to dig a

shallow pit 8 to 18 inches deep according to locality, and pack it full of fermenting stable manure. The manure, before being placed in the pit should be turned over once or twice in a pile in order to insure even heating. It may then be packed into the hotbed pit and tramped uniformly. Standard hotbed sashes are 3 feet wide and 6 feet long, and the size of the bed should be made to suit the number of sashes employed. A framework of boards 18 to 24 inches high at the back and about 12 inches high in front is placed over the manure-filled pit to support the sash.

Use for Thermometer.

About 3 or 4 inches of fine garden loam is spread evenly over the manure and the bed allowed to stand four or five days to warm up before any seed is sown. At first the temperature of the bed may run rather high, and it is best to delay planting the seeds in it until it begins to decline. This can best be determined by planting a thermometer with the bulb about three inches below the surface of the soil. The temperature should fall below 85 degrees before seeds are planted.

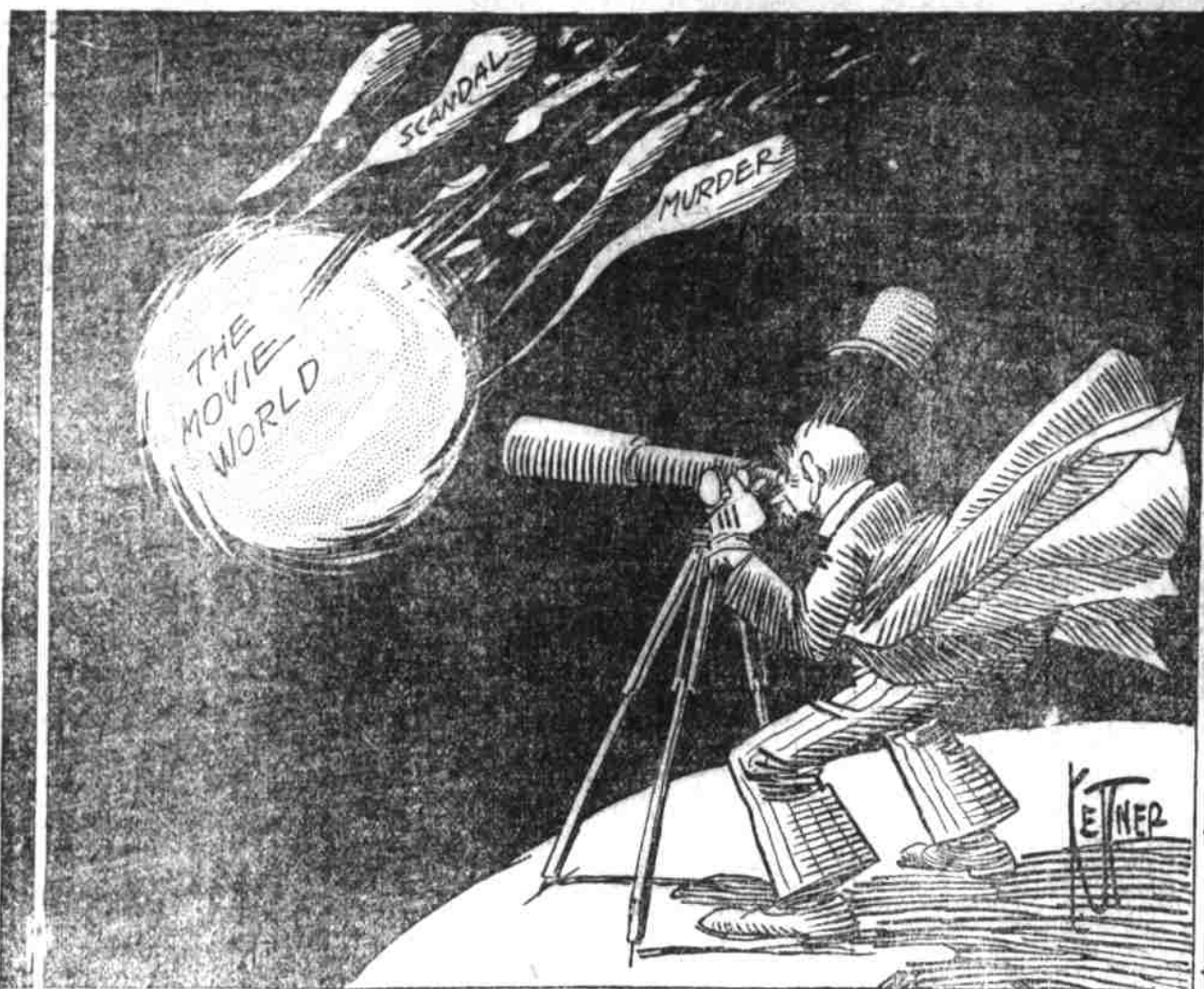
If glass-filled sashes are not available for covering the hotbed, heavy muslin may be used instead; the glass, however, makes the most desirable form of covering. Care must be taken to give the bed sufficient ventilation to prevent overheating, as it is liable to heat up very rapidly when the sun shines full upon the glass. Watering should be done during the early part of the day and the bed given enough air so that the plants will dry off before night. The bed should be closed before evening, in order to conserve enough heat to carry it through the night in good condition. If the weather should turn severely cold, a covering of straw, blankets or canvas may be thrown over the bed to protect it.

Coldframe Construction.

A coldframe is constructed in exactly the same manner as a hotbed, with the exception that no manure is placed beneath it to supply heat.

Before the plants are set in the garden, either from the hotbed or the coldframe, they should be gradually hardened to outside conditions by giving them more ventilation each day. Finally, remove the sashes entirely on bright days and replace them during the nights. The aim should be to produce strong, healthy plants that will make a quick start when placed in the garden.

Falling Meteors



Sled Trains Are Used by American Relief Administration Workers in Russia to Deliver Food to Starving



THIS is the way American food for starving Russians is delivered in certain sections of the famine-stricken country. The picture was taken upon the arrival of the first American Relief Administration transport at Sterlectamak, capital of the Bashkir Republic. The sled train is laden with food, drawn many miles from the nearest railroad station, to be distributed among the famished children through the ARA feeding stations established there.

Cables tell of the joyful reception which this relief party met upon arrival at Sterlectamak. The hungry inhabitants were in desperate straits, as they are pretty much throughout the Volga Valley section, and this American food was a God-send. Children flocked about the sled-loads of supplies and assisted in unloading and guarding the treasured contents, until kibens were set up and distribution begun.

The work of relieving the situation due to the shortage of food is being conducted by the ARA with despatch. The delivery of many food packages, sent through the Hoover Food Reliance system by relatives and friends in America has helped the situation somewhat. Many additional packages, however, are in need of food, and more remittances can be obtained by the office of the ARA, 42 Broadway, New York. In turn, for each \$100 sent, 117 pounds of substantial food, including flour, rice, condensed milk, tinned fats, sugar and tea are sent to the afflicted person, institution or group of individuals.

PRUNING WILL GET RESULTS

Fruit Trees, Vines and Bushes, as Well as Flowering Shrubbery, Require Trimming.

Fruit trees, fruit vines and bushes, as well as flowering shrubbery, require careful pruning to get the best results—fruit and flowers.

There is some difference of opinion as to whether the pruning should be done in the fall or in the early spring. Despite the argument as to the time, the pruning is absolutely necessary if crops are to be the best possible under weather, soil or other conditions that may prevail in any particular locality.

In pruning fruit or flowering trees and vines it is well for the one who wields the pruning knife to know just how to do the work. One not acquainted with the operation would best post up on the task before one seriously wounds the trees or vines. It is not a difficult task, but one that is as necessary each year as cultivation—for crops cannot be expected unless the proper attention is given.

"HOE" THE PLANTS IN FLATS

The small spikelike plants that have just come through the soil in the flats in the basement require a little "hoeing" occasionally. Gentle loosening of the ground—not close enough to injure the tender roots—will do the plants good.

The only way to keep up with Gastonia and Gaston affairs is to read The Gazette every day. See editorial page for subscription rates.

TO HAVE AN INDOOR GARDEN

Make Your Basement Work for You by Producing Vegetables Before Outdoor Planting Time.

Nearly every cottage, as well as the larger houses and the city tenements, are equipped with large basements. Many of these basements have space that is not utilized, and many of them have excellent southern and eastern exposures whereby the sun has a chance to play through the windows a large portion of the day.

Make the basement work for you, it is an easy matter to have a miniature greenhouse in most any basement where there is sufficient heat to keep the soil and plants from freezing. At least, plants for setting out when the danger of frost is past can be easily raised in the basement, and small vegetables such as radishes, onions and lettuce can be raised and eaten by the owner long before it is time to plant such things outside.

If the window space in the basement is sufficient a long tray arrangement such as used in greenhouses may be used for the indoor garden. Such a tray will be sufficient to produce a good quantity of small vegetables until time to plant outside and at the same time the tomato, pepper, cabbage and other plants may be started, later to be transplanted to individual boxes for more intensive cultivation, and to be ready to transplant in the open with large, healthy plants.

"What is your husband's favorite flower?"
"Daisies—he's located some moonshine!"—Wayside Tales.

To win a race a Jockey doesn't put extra weight on the horse that helps him succeed

No man or woman who wants to succeed in the race of life can afford the handicap of headaches, insomnia, indigestion and debility. Nor can they afford to take anything that may keep up a continual irritation of the nervous system.

Yet this is what many people do who drink excessive amounts of tea or coffee. For tea and coffee contain caffeine, a substance that is sometimes very injurious. Many doctors say that caffeine raises the blood pressure, irritates the kidneys, and over-stimulates the entire nervous system. Also that it is especially bad for growing children, or for any one who has any tendency to nervousness or insomnia.

If you want to avoid a pos-

sible cause of headache, insomnia, or nervousness, it might be well to stop taking tea and coffee for awhile, and drink rich, satisfying Postum, instead.

Postum is a delicately-roasted, pure cereal beverage—delicious and wholesome.

Order Postum from your grocer today. Drink this fragrant, healthful beverage for awhile, and see if you will not feel brighter, more active, and more resistant to fatigue—as so many thousands of others have felt.

Postum comes in two forms: Instant Postum (in tins) made instantly in the cup by the addition of boiling water. Postum Cereal (in packages of larger bulk, for those who prefer to make the drink while the meal is being prepared) made by boiling for 20 minutes.



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NOTICE OF SUMMONS.

North Carolina, Gaston County.
Walter Jolly vs. Ollie Jolly.
The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Gaston County, N. C., to sever the bonds of matrimony existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and the said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the Court House of Gaston County on the 20th Day of March, 1922, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will appeal to the court for relief demanded in said complaint.
This 25th day of February, 1922.
S. C. HENDRICKS,
M-20-e-4w Clerk Superior Court.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

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