

Making Money On the Farm

XVIII.—The Vegetable Garden

By C. V. GREGORY,
Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture"
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A GOOD vegetable garden will produce at least half of the family's living during the summer months, so say nothing of the vegetables that may be canned or stored in the cellar for winter use. Many farmers object to a garden as causing too much work. That is largely because they make it so. The largest item of work is hoeing, and if the garden is properly planned and managed little of that will need to be done. The mistake most often made is in the location of the garden. It is put in a little corner back of the house where there is no room to use horse tools. It is much better to plant a few fruit trees in such a space and locate the garden some place where it can be worked by horsepower.

Securing Early Vegetables.
A south slope is best if early vegetables are wanted. A sandy soil is also a big help in getting things started early, but almost any soil may be made to give good results by draining and manuring. Fall plowing is a necessary step in getting the garden planted early. Then as soon as it is dry enough to work in the spring it should be disked and harrowed until the best possible seed bed is produced.

Earliness is a prime essential in a vegetable garden. One of the main satisfactions in having a garden is in being able to send a mess of peas or a watermelon to the neighbors before they have any of their own. Then,

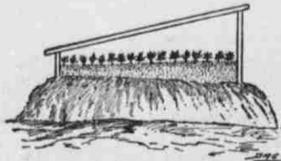


FIG. XXXV—SECTION OF HOTBED.

too, the family begins to get hungry for green stuff usually long before there is any for use.

Besides having light, early soil, a south slope and preparing the ground early, there are a number of other devices that can be resorted to to secure earliness. One of the most important of these is the hotbed. A hotbed costs little, and after its advantages have once been found out by actual trial it is seldom abandoned. The best location for a hotbed is on the south side of a building. It should face the south in order to get the most possible heat from the sun. The main source of heat, however, is fermenting horse manure. A pit may be dug for the manure, but the hotbed will be just as successful if the manure is piled on top of the ground. The pile should be about two feet deep and should be spread out flat and packed tightly. It should extend out about two feet each way from the frame that is to be used. The manure used should have the proper proportions of straw and moisture, so that it will be springy, but not too loose.

It is a fact that much of the success of the hotbed depends on the proper condition of this heat supply. If the manure is too far advanced in decomposition the fermentation will not be active enough to generate the proper amount of heat. On the other hand, if active fermentation has not already begun the necessary heat will not be on hand when it is wanted, and germination and growth will be altogether too slow. A little careful attention to this matter will prevent disappointment.

The frame may be of any desired size, according to the size of glass that can be secured. A storm window makes a good top for a hotbed. If no glass can be secured a rush covered with muslin may be used. The frame should be about eight inches deep in front and fourteen behind. As soon as the manure has been packed in place the frame should be placed upon it and about five inches of rich soil placed inside. The best way to get this soil is to store it away in a barrel the fall before, as you will want it long before the ground thaws in the spring.

Managing the Hotbed.

The proper time to start the hotbed is about six weeks before the ground outside will be ready for planting. About three days after the hotbed has been started the temperature will have become uniform, and the seeds can be planted. They can be planted thickly, since they are to be taken up before they have made much growth. The principal plants started in a hotbed are cabbages and tomatoes. Lettuce and radishes may also be grown in the hotbed and if planted thinly enough may be left there until they are large enough to use. If you want a few early melons or cucumbers the seed may be planted in strawberry boxes of dirt and placed in the hotbed. When the weather is sufficiently warm outside they may be set out in the garden. The roots will make their way through the sides of the box, and three or four weeks will be saved. This is a clever device for treating early sowings of plants which do not bear transplanting. Started in this way early in

the season they may be transferred, box and all, into the garden bed and suffer no setback.

During cold nights the hotbed should be covered with straw or old carpets to keep it from getting too cold inside. On sunny days the sash may have to be raised during the warmer part of the day to give ventilation. The plants should be watered in the morning on warm days only to prevent too great a reduction of temperature.

A cold frame is almost as necessary as a hotbed. The plants raised in a hotbed are very tender and are liable to be injured if transplanted directly to the garden. The cold frame is made the same as a hotbed except that no manure is used. After the plants have obtained a good start in the hotbed they should be transferred to the cold frame. The plants in the cold frame are gradually accustomed to the outside air by leaving the sash up for longer periods each day. This transplanting also helps the tomatoes and cabbages in another way, in that it makes them thicker stemmed and causes better root development. A stocky plant of this kind is always a better grower and yielder.

Early Potatoes.

A good way to secure earliness in the case of potatoes is to pack a number in sand somewhere where they will get plenty of light. This should be done a week or so before planting time. As soon as the ground is ready these tubers are set out carefully so as not to break off the sprouts which have started. A week or more in the earliness of the crop can be saved in this way. The early potatoes may be planted rather shallow and a thick coating of straw placed between the rows. On nights when there is danger of freezing, the plants can be covered with straw. No cultivation will be necessary, since the straw will keep the weeds down and conserve moisture. When digging time comes the straw can be thrown back and the potatoes will be found on top of the ground, or nearly so. Of course this plan is not practicable except for a few rows of the earliest potatoes.

Rhubarb and Asparagus.

Another method of securing early vegetables is by the use of perennials, or those which come up from the roots each year. The most important of these are asparagus and rhubarb. Asparagus is one of the most delicious vegetables that can be grown, and it fills in a space in the spring when there is nothing else available. Rhubarb comes nearer to being a fruit, making appetizing sauce and pies.

In starting an asparagus bed the land should be manured heavily and plowed deeply. One year old plants grown from seed should be planted four inches deep and a foot apart in rows three feet apart. The early spring treatment of the asparagus bed consists in giving it a thorough disking. After the cutting season is over a liberal coating of manure should be scattered between the rows. The stalks should be cut in the fall before the berries are fully ripe to keep the bed from becoming filled with seedlings. Asparagus cannot be cut much before it is three years old. Rhubarb is easily grown from roots planted around in any out of the way corner and kept well mulched and manured.

In planting the garden those plants which have the same habits of growth should be put together. The early crops should also be hunched as much as possible. In some cases an early crop may be got out of the way in time to put a later one on the same ground.

Cultivation.

The garden should be laid out in long rows and as much of the cultivation as possible done with a horse cultivator. A one horse walking cultivator is best for this work. A wheel hoe to get close to the plants and into the corners is a valuable addition to the equipment. As a last resort a hand hoe may have to be used once in awhile to get the weeds out of the row. Changing the garden to a new place every few years is a big help in keeping weeds in check. If the garden is put on clean soil in the first place and few weeds are allowed to go to seed the labor problem will be greatly simplified.

Insects.

Of all the insects that attack garden crops the one that probably causes the most trouble is the striped cucumber beetle. A practice often followed where but a few hills of vine crops are grown is to cover the young plants with a frame of mosquito netting. A



FIG. XXXVI—THE CABBAGE PATCH.

better plan is to knock the beetles to the ground by a slight blow and kill each one with a drop of kerosene. Sprinkling the plants with pepper, tobacco dust or air slaked lime will help some.

Paris green, applied at the rate of one pound to a hundred gallons of water, with four pounds of freshly slaked lime added to prevent injury to the foliage, is one of the best remedies for cabbage worms and most of the other insects that infest garden crops. The big tomato worms can best be killed by knocking them off into a can of kerosene.



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P. O.

Public Sale

The undersigned will sell at public auction on the southeast quarter of section 9, township 26, range 47, 9 miles north and three miles east of Alliance, on WEDNESDAY, NOV. 10, 1909, commencing at 10 o'clock a.m., the following described property:

9 Head of Horses, consisting of 3 work horses, 1 driving horse, 5 geldings.

31 Head of Cattle, consisting of 12 milch cows, 4 two-year-old steers, 4 two-year-old heifers, 10 calves and 1 bull.

15 shoats, 2 ewes, 100 chickens, some turkeys, ducks and geese. Hay in stack.

Farm Machinery, consisting of 1 binder, 1 wagon, 1 spring wagon, 1 set work harness, 1 set buggy harness, 1 lister, 1 cultivator, 1 plow, 1 disc and 1 harrow.

One Empire cream separator, 1 heating stove and other household goods.

Free lunch at noon.

Terms of Sale: All sums of \$10 and under, cash. On sums

over that amount, 10 months' time with interest at 10 per cent from date of sale with approved security.

MRS. NELLIE HEATH, Prop.
Cols. Wm. Fosket and H. P. Coursey, Auctioneers.

A. S. Reed, Clerk.

Public Sale

I will close out the following described property at public auction at my place S. E. 1/4 of Sec. 18-25-49, twelve miles south of Hemingford, and two miles north and nine miles west from Alliance, known as the Tom Rubottom place, on

MONDAY, NOV. 8, 1909, beginning at 10 o'clock a.m. sharp, the following described property:

41 Head of cattle, consisting of 1 registered Hereford bull, 1 grade bull, 7 milch cows, 1 fresh, 7 white faced cows and other cows not broke to milk, 2 yearling steers, 7 steer calves, 4 two-year-old heifers, 6 yearling heifers and 5 calves.

6 Head of Horses, consisting

of 1 pair of roan mares, 7 and 8 years old, weight around 1400; 1 roan mare, 4 years old; 1 brown mare, 4 years old; 1 roan mare, 9 years old; 1 black pony, 13 years old.

2 fat hogs and 8 shoats.

Farm Machinery, consisting of 2 breaking plows, 1 riding cultivator, 1 walking cultivator, 1 12-ft. Monitor drill, 1 7-ft. McCormick binder, 1 lister, 1 disk cultivator, 1 riding plow, 1 walking plow, 1 harrow, 1 hay sweep, 2 mowers, 1 top buggy, 2 wagons, 3 sets of harness, 1 Empire cream separator, 1 disk harrow, 1 4-horse potato digger, 1 2-horse potato digger, 1 hay rack.

Household goods, 2 stoves, 20 tons of hay, about 40 tons of alfalfa.

Free lunch at noon.

Terms of Sale: Under \$10 cash; all sums over \$10, eight months time on bankable paper drawing 10 per cent interest.

GEORGE KEY, Prop.

Cols. Wm. Fosket and H. P. Coursey, Auctioneers.

A. S. Reed, Clerk.

Burlington Route Time Table Alliance, Nebr.

GOING EAST	AL. M. T.	LV. C. T.
No. 42, Daily, Lincoln Flyer—stops at Seneca, Brookston, Reynolds, etc.	2:35 a.m.	3:50 a.m.
No. 44, Daily, Local from Alliance to Seneca; thence stops at Seneca, Broken Bow, Reynolds, etc.	11:45 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
No. 38, Daily, From Edgemont and Deadwood.	1:35 a.m.	
GOING WEST	AL. C. T.	LV. M. T.
No. 41, Daily, Flyer—Edgemont, Deadwood, Newcastle, etc.	4:55 a.m.	6:10 a.m.
No. 43, Local, Edgemont, Newcastle and west.	1:30 p.m.	12:45 p.m.
No. 35, Daily, Edgemont and Deadwood.		3:30 a.m.
GOING SOUTH	LV. M. T.	
No. 39, Denver Flyer.		2:55 a.m.
No. 33, Denver Local—connects at Bridgeport with Guernsey local.		12:45 p.m.
GOING NORTH	AL. M. T.	
No. 32, Flyer from Denver.		3:10 a.m.
No. 34, Local from Denver and Guernsey.		11:50 a.m.

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