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**How to Plan**  
**A Home**  
**Garden**

**By C. V. GREGORY,**  
 Author of "Home Course in Agriculture," "Making Money on the Farm," Etc.

A GOOD vegetable garden is one of the best antidotes for the high cost of living. At the Illinois experiment station it was found that the net profits per year from a half acre vegetable garden were nearly \$75. At the present high prices and without counting the work done in the garden by the members of the family the profits will be considerably greater than this. A properly arranged garden can be counted on to furnish nearly half the family's



AN EMERGENCY HOTBED.  
 living during the summer months. It will also add a variety to the menu that is no small item. Vegetables purchased at the store are never as fresh and never taste as good as those gathered from the garden.

There are difficulties in the way of a successful vegetable garden, of course. On the farm the men folks are often too busy to "monkey" with the garden. In town space for a garden cannot always be obtained, and it is sometimes difficult to get the garden plowed and cultivated. A little planning will overcome all obstacles, however, and the results fully justify any trouble that may be incurred.

**Planning the Garden.**

Success in home gardening depends to a considerable extent on having everything planned out beforehand. It is a good plan to make a rough map of the garden. Make lines where the rows are to be and write on each row the name of the vegetable to be grown. If horse cultivation is to be used the rows will need to be about three feet apart. Where the garden is to be cultivated by hand most garden crops can be planted as close as fourteen to eighteen inches apart. The garden should be planned for horse cultivation wherever possible, as the extra space used will be more than counterbalanced by the saving in labor. In the case of town gardens it is often possible for several neighbors to make arrangements for a man with a horse and cultivator one afternoon out of each week. In this way the cost for each will be insignificant, and the gardens will be kept in shape with a minimum of hand work. The same plan can be followed in getting the gardens plowed and manured.

In planning the garden early crops can often be followed by late ones, thus getting double use of the land. The cut shows a specimen plan for a garden 75 by 125 feet. The same general principles will apply for a garden of any size:

Asparagus.	Hotbed.	Cold frame.	Rhubarb.
LETTUCE, RADISHES, ONIONS, PARSNIPS, CARROTS, BEETS, SALADY. Eighteen inch rows. Lettuce and radishes can be followed by late peas.	PEAS, BEANS AND CABBAGE. Early peas can be followed by early cabbage by late peas. Rows two and a half feet apart.	EARLY POTATOES AND CORN. Rows three and a half feet apart. Can be followed by late cabbage or turnips.	MELONS, CUCUMBERS, SQUASHES, TOMATOES, ETC. Rows four feet apart.

Do not patronize a cheap seedsman. The few cents saved in the price of seed will be more than counteracted by the lessened value of the crop.

The highly advertised novelties are valuable more as curios than for anything else. If you or two resist the temptation to try one or two of these, plant them in some obscure corner of the garden where their failure will not be noticeable. The old reliable varieties are always the best in the long run. It is well to plant a number of different varieties in order to give variety and succession. This plan will also give a comparison of varieties, which will form a basis for seed selection next year.

**Preparing the Ground.**  
 An earlier and thriftier garden can be secured if the land was plowed in the fall. It is also better to have it manured at that time. If this was

**Raising a Few Vegetables One of the Best Antidotes For the Present High Cost of Living**  
**Almost Half of the Family Living During the Summer and Autumn Months May Thus Be Secured**

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not done well rotted manure can be scattered on the plowing in the spring and disked in well. Where the ground was not plowed in the fall the manure should be applied before plowing in the spring. There is no fertilizer so good for the garden as well rotted stable manure. The average livery stable manure should be avoided, however, as it is usually coarse and strawy and full of weed seeds. Liberal quantities should be used, as it is almost impossible to make the garden too rich.

Where manure cannot be obtained a commercial fertilizer with a guaranteed analysis of 10 per cent potash, 8 per cent phosphoric acid and 3 per cent nitrogen may be used instead. One thousand pounds of this mixture to the acre will be about right. It can be scattered over the garden after plowing and harrowed in, or the plan of hill fertilization may be followed. In this plan the fertilizer is mixed with the dirt in the bottom of each hill or furrow. Where this is done it would be well to add a little nitrate of soda for such plants as asparagus, rhubarb and lettuce, as nitrogen promotes leaf growth.

The garden should not be worked in the spring until the ground is thoroughly dry, as otherwise it will be cloddy all summer. The plowing, disking and harrowing should be thoroughly done, so that by planting time the garden is in as fine a condition as it can be made. This thorough preparation will help warm the soil, and a warm soil means an early garden. If the soil of the garden is heavy and not naturally well drained it should be thoroughly tiled.

**The Hotbed and Cold Frame.**

With many vegetables it is a great advantage to start the seed in a hotbed early in spring. Hotbeds are of many kinds. The simplest is a wooden frame of any convenient size with the back side about eight inches higher than the front. This can be covered with a storm window or even with a frame covered muslin. The heat is usually furnished by fermenting horse manure. This should contain enough straw so that it will be rather spry, but not enough so that it will be too loose. The manure should be moistened with warm water and piled up in a conical pile after being mixed thoroughly. After it has started to ferment it should be mixed again. After fermentation starts the second time the manure can be spread out on the south side of some building in a pile about two feet thick and two or three feet larger each way than the hotbed frame. The frame should then be set on the manure and about six inches of dirt placed in it.

A necessary adjunct to the hotbed is the cold frame. This is made the same as the hotbed, with the exception that no manure is used and no heat provided. Plants grown in the hotbed are very tender and are likely to perish if removed immediately to the garden; consequently the plan of "hardening off" is followed. After the plants get a good start they are accustomed to outside conditions by leaving the cover up a longer time each day. After a few days of this treatment they are transplanted to the cold frame. This protects them to some extent, especially at night, while they are gradually hardened by leaving the cover off as much as possible.

**Planting.**

As soon as the garden is in shape for planting seeds of the hardier vegetables should be put in. In this class will come lettuce, radishes and early potatoes. A little later the early cabbage plants can be set out and the onion seeds planted. Then come the early peas and beans, carrots, parsnips, beets and other like crops. Crops that are sensitive to frost, such as melons, cucumbers, squashes, tomatoes and eggplants, should not be planted until all danger of frost is past. Late potatoes and sweet corn should be planted about the same time. In order to extend the season of crops like peas and sweet corn fresh plantings should be made at intervals of about a week and a half up to the latter part of June. To secure early vegetables early varieties must be used for the first plantings, but the bulk of the planting had better be done with late varieties, as they are better yielders and are usually of better quality.

In planting the garden a string and a couple of stakes should be used to insure straight rows. The aim should be to put the seeds in just deep enough to get them in contact with moist soil. Small seeds especially should not be planted deeply. Potatoes, which are not really seeds, should be planted deeply enough to make hilling unnecessary. After the seeds are planted the soil above the rows should be compacted. A light garden roller is handy for this purpose. A loose mulch should be provided to prevent evaporation by going over the rows with a rake or by giving the garden a light harrowing.

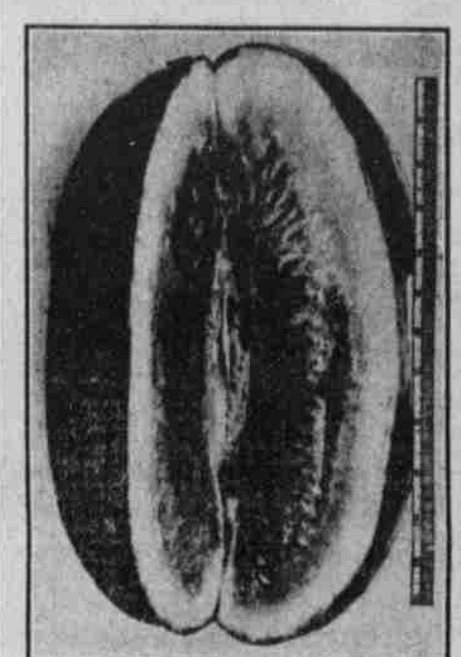
**TROUBLESOME GARDEN PESTS**

How to Rid the Home Garden of These Unwelcome Visitors.

One of the most troublesome garden insects is the striped cucumber beetle, which so often plays havoc with cucumbers, melons and squashes. Probably the most effective way of getting rid of beetles in the home garden is by the use of frames covered with netting. Light box lumber is all right for these frames. They should be made about eight inches square and four inches high. The top should be covered with screen or mosquito netting. These frames should be placed over the plants as soon as they begin to appear through the ground and left until the plants have outgrown them. Then they can be put away and kept for the next year.

A simpler and cheaper remedy, but one that is more work, is to go over the vines in the morning while the dew is on and tap each one gently to knock the beetles off on the ground. Then with a common oil can filled with kerosene apply a drop of oil to each beetle. Be very careful not to let any of the oil touch the plants. By going over the patch two or three times most of the beetles can be killed. Cabbage worms are very troublesome at times. The Paris green-bordeaux mixture is the standard remedy for these as well as all other biting insects. To make it dissolve one pound of copper sulphate in a wooden pail. Slake one and one-half pounds of fresh lime, preferably with hot water. Add enough water to the copper sulphate solution to make five gallons and do the same to the lime. Now pour the two solutions together and stir well. Stir one ounce of Paris green to a thick paste with a little cold water, add it to the Bordeaux solution and stir well. This mixture is the standard remedy for both insects and fungous diseases. It should be applied with a hand spray pump.

There is sometimes difficulty in getting a liquid spray to stick to the smooth leaves of the cabbage. In that case Paris green used at the rate of one ounce to eight pounds of air slaked lime may be sprinkled on the plants in the dry form while the dew is on. There is little danger from the use of Paris green in this way, as no traces of it will be left by the time the cabbages are mature. For plant lice and other sucking insects kerosene emulsion is the best remedy. To make it boil one-fourth pound of laundry soap in a quart of soft water until thoroughly dissolved. Add half a gallon of kerosene and churn for half by pumping through a spray pump and back into the pail. When thoroughly emulsified the mixture will have a creamy appearance. Dilute with about nine parts of soft water before using. This mixture is to be applied as a spray to any plants affected with lice.



HOME GROWN WATERMELON.

Onion Culture.  
 Where only a few onions are wanted the best plan is to buy a quart of onion sets and plant them three inches apart in rows eighteen inches apart. They should be covered about an inch deep. Onions must be kept free from weeds and hoed frequently. When grown from seed they must be sown thickly and later thinned by hand. Larger and better onions will be secured by planting the seed early in the hotbed. As soon as the weather becomes settled in the spring they can be "hardened off" and transplanted to the garden, setting them about three inches apart.  
 If the onions show a tendency to "go all to tops" a barrel may be rolled over the row to break the tops over. This will cause the growth to be transferred to the bulbs. After the tops are dead the bulbs should be pulled and spread out in thin layers in a shed or some other well ventilated place to dry. After they are well cured they can be sacked up and stored any place where there is no danger of freezing.

**Treating Potatoes For Scab.**

If the seed potatoes are at all scabby it will pay to treat them and make sure of getting a clean crop. Scab is a fungous disease which is propagated by spores. These spores, if not killed in the seed potatoes, will get a foothold on the new potatoes soon after they are set, and a scabby crop will result. The best remedy is to soak the seed potatoes for an hour and a half in a solution of one pound of formalin to forty gallons of water. The solution should be mixed in a barrel and the potatoes put in a gunny sack and lowered into it.  
 After being treated they should be spread out for a few hours to dry, when they are ready to be cut and planted.

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