

EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN.



DETROIT GARDENING SCHEME

Vacant Lots Are Transformed Into Real Beauty Spots of City.

RICH AND POOR WORK ALIKE

Plan Has Been Copied and Successfully Worked Out in Number of Other Cities with Considerable Success.

A few years ago, in Detroit, Mich., Hazen S. Pingree, then mayor of Detroit, and later governor of Michigan, inaugurated a campaign to utilize the vacant lots of the city for gardening purposes.

The original plan, to provide garden space for poor people, was gradually extended under the direction of Colonel Cornelius A. Gardner, United States army, who was stationed there at the time, and before the scheme was perfected, it had been enlarged to include the entire city, and children of the rich and poor alike toiled over the regular rows of vegetables on the vacant lots throughout the city, in a few seasons transforming ugly patches of weeds and rubbish into attractive and productive garden spots.

The first plan of vacant lot gardening started with a concerted action on the part of Mayor Pingree and other city officials, to secure from owners of vacant lots throughout the city permission for boys to cultivate the ground.

Plot for Each Boy. These vacant lots, once secured, were divided into plots of ground, and each one was assigned to a certain boy or man or family. The poorer people of the city did not take up the idea readily at first, but as they saw the opportunity to secure a bountiful supply of fresh vegetables during the summer, they became interested in the plan. This work of dividing the ground of the vacant lots among the men who were to till it was placed in charge of Colonel Gardner, and he later acted in the capacity of advisor to the city gardeners, going from place to place, offering suggestions and settling disputes as they occasionally arose among the gardeners.

In the quarter of the city occupied by foreigners, the women took a keen interest in the gardens and filled them and cared for them during the day when their husbands were employed in the mills or shops. The garden scheme grew. It was then extended to include the various parts of the residence district of the city, and boys and men from various parts of the city engaged in contests for small prizes during the garden season.

Civic Pride. There developed in Detroit a civic pride in beautifying the city, and the plan was promoted by the people who wanted the results of their till in vegetables.

In many cases, not only did the city gardeners supply his own family with garden truck during the summer, but also laid in a supply of potatoes and other vegetables for the winter season.

The cost of living was materially reduced, and the quality of their living increased by the people of Detroit when they once had the vacant lot gardening scheme working well.

Vacant lots, formerly an eyesore because of the accumulation of rubbish and because of the dense growth of weeds which had flourished there, were made real beauty spots of the city. Not a single avenue in the residence district of the city was disgraced by a jungle of weeds, such as had grown there before.

The city gardeners were an intensive lot of farmers, and stories of the wonderful production from small plots of ground were almost unbelievable.

Other cities began to look at Detroit and the plan spread. Concerted effort, in every city where the scheme of vacant lot gardening has been tried, has accomplished wonders, in eliminating weed patches and putting in their place, throughout the city, neat, clean, well cared for gardens, which work wonders for the people in giving them healthful, cheap food during the hot months of the year. Disease is cut down by the extensive diet of fresh vegetables during the summer, and the bugster, with his creaking wagon, has become a stranger on the streets in those cities where vacant lot gardening is in vogue.

Smiles at Prospect of Garden



Expert Tells How to Plant Trees to Make Them Grow

BY DR. A. WALT STEINLE.

Before we delve into the ground with our spades in a frantic and crude way to plant our trees, shrubs, etc., let us take up a few details that are essential to insure the growing of our newly purchased nursery stock.

The home owner imagines all you have to do is to poke the tree into the ground and it will grow. So in buying new trees or shrubs, after you have dug your hole, and always make the hole about three times larger than it should be, cut the ends of your roots with a sharp knife, before placing your tree. This will induce fresh root growth. Pour a few buckets of water into your hole and then thoroughly puddle the loose dirt in the bottom of the hole until it assumes a heavy consistency.

You can determine the depths to plant your tree by the ground stain on the base of the trunk. Do not plant too deep or not deep enough, but get it exactly as it grew in the nursery. Fill in the dirt and do not pat with your hands, for fear that you will mangle a root, but jump in with both feet. The soil will compact firmly over the root, and the little fibers will soon establish themselves in the soil. Leave the last few inches of the soil on the surface loose. This will act as a mulch, and for the tree's sake, well rotted manure is beneficial, but take the benefit of a doubt, for new manure is fermentable, and the heat from the fermentation is surely injurious to your tree.

Keep your weather eye on the little infant; your task is not completed, remember. Trees are subject to the ravages of insects and require cultivation to insure a robust growth, dig around them frequently and thoroughly.

The chief cause of the deterioration of much newly planted nursery stock is brought about by the drought, or a lack of sufficient moisture during a dry spell and invariably by an improper system of watering. However, a good many young trees die from the results of being drowned. Water is lavished around them in such copious quantities that the small fiber roots are washed from the soil, the oxygen is driven out, and the tree thirsts to death in the midst of plenty.

Water thoroughly and not quite so profusely.

A great many people are of the impression that young trees on account of their infancy, require no attention. However, a more absurd idea was never entertained. A young tree is like a young child; when in its infancy give it a proper foundation to build up on, with proper attention it will develop into a robust and shapely tree, requiring very little attention in maturity.

If you wish to be successful in growing your nursery stock always remember that young plants require attention and water.

You would not think of going away from your home without leaving some food for your dog or cat. Did it ever occur to you that young plants also get hungry and thirsty.

Amateur Tells of Heading Lettuce

Every amateur gardener tries to grow lettuce that will head, but few succeed. After testing many of the much advertised varieties I am satisfied to stick to May King and Wayhead as ones to be depended on for the ordinary garden with a little care; and I grow as nice heads as are usually seen on a market stand.

Plant early, while ground is cold, rather light soil preferable, working into top of ground, after spading, plenty of chicken manure or a commercial fertilizer containing a liberal amount of ammonia. Sow sparingly in rows twelve inches apart, cover seed very lightly, and if chicken manure is used, wet down as soon as sown with a solution of nitrate of soda, two table-spoonfuls of crystals to three gallons of water. When four big leaves appear thin to six inches apart in rows and cultivate often, lightly. Make a frame four feet square by ten inches high, eight plaster lath will make all but corner posts, and cover with four yards of thinest cheesecloth. This frame will reach over three rows and bleach enough for one time, keeping it on dry days and off at night, sprinkling the lettuce each morning before covering. The frame to be used after heads are well formed and continued until about a week before cutting. Heads will then be tender and crisp.

Excess plants may be reset, but will not do so well as those that are not disturbed. C. G. T.

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Land Owners Are Employing Many Russians and Poles.

PROBLEM IS BECOMING GRAVE

Men Who Are Flocking to the Cities Say Russia in Rural Districts Are Less Than Fifty Cents Day.

BERLIN, March 21.—The Farmers' League, whose annual convention in Berlin just closed, declares that the exodus from rural districts to cities has made it impossible for the landowners to find enough native farm laborers. They have to depend on the hordes of Russians, Poles and other foreigners who invade Germany each spring and return to their homes in the autumn, taking out of the country the savings of their six months' work. The problem has recently become graver in view of the announced intention of the Russian government to forbid its subjects from coming across the border. This would mean that the German farmers would have to look elsewhere for no less than 40,000 laborers, at a time when army increases are about to take a further block of 100,000 able-bodied men away from productive pursuits.

Prominent speakers of the Farmers' League asserted that laws limiting the right of domiciliary choice of persons under 35 years old should be enacted. This would mean that the peasants, who

right to choose their own domicile and to move about freely was established by the imperial constitution more than forty years ago, would return to serfdom. It was also proposed that even adult inhabitants of rural communities should not be permitted to move to cities without first proving that they had secured a home there. How such a law could be enforced was not explained.

The same conditions make for the drift to the cities in Germany that are observed elsewhere. These are primarily the superior educational and rural advantages. Another great factor here is the low wages prevailing in rural districts. An official report shows some 300 governmental districts, corresponding roughly to the American township, in which the prevailing wage for laborers 21 years of age and upward is 45 cents daily or less.

British Building Forts in Roads that Line Khyber Pass

PESHAWUR, India, March 21.—With secrecy and speed unusual in public work, English army engineers are pushing to completion the forts and roads of Khyber Pass, to make it a Gibraltar against invasion from the north. As domestic unrest grows in India, the fear of the Russian bear and the unruly states between Russia and the Indian empire increases, and England is clearly determined not to be attacked in the rear in the event of a native rebellion.

Two years ago the road across the pass was hardly more than a trail for pack animals, but today Khyber is traversed by two roads, suitable for the fastest and heaviest military traction. The defensive works have been constructed with such secrecy that some of the details are known to the public. It is believed that the natural battlements formed by the cliffs above the roads are strengthened with hidden embrasures, behind which great mountain guns lie hidden. Competent engineers believe that unless the defending force is cut off from the south, the pass can be defended by a small garrison even against a host such as the ancient invaders of India brought down from the north.

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Younger Diplomats Tire of the Tango

LONDON, March 21.—The afternoon tango fad is becoming wearisome to the young unmarried diplomats. The dowagers of society were reluctant to take up the new dance, but the craze has now become general among the old ladies, who do not intend to forego quickly the new lease which it has given them on youth. Hence the nose of the young diplomat, for the dowagers are giving countless afternoon dances to which they all are invited.

It would be fatal to the social careers of the young men to disregard them. The diplomats are the selected victims, not only because they are the natural dancing men, but because they have their afternoon free.

The dances have increased so that many of the diplomats attend one daily. One young diplomat complains that neither age nor weight can keep the enthusiastic dowagers off the floor and he declared if he, in tangoing with a duchess weighing 200 pounds and who in years has reached almost the allotted span, is not earning his salary he would like to know why not.

The Sunday school lesson was concerning the afflictions of Job, and his wonderful patience during all his trials. "And now," said the superintendent at the close of the lesson, "Who can tell what condition Job was in at the end of his life?" "Dead!" answered the sad-looking boy in the back seat.