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THE HOME GARDEN

What is Home without a Garden?



Single Fringed. Small Flowering. Ruffled

Popular Petunias.
The revival of the popularity of the petunia, for years one of the garden standbys, has been a feature of gardening for the last two years. The introduction of the Rosy Morn bedding petunia with its wonderful wealth of bloom and insect-attracting to flower in almost any situation has done much to revive interest in this popular old-fashioned flower.

The giant fringed single types have shown remarkable development for pot plants and for window boxes as well as for bedding. The large flowered types are not as free bloomers as the bedding type of which Rosy Morn, Carmine Sylvia, Howard's Star and others are familiar examples.

A strain of small, free-flowering double petunias seems destined to become great favorites, rivaling in freedom of bloom the Rosy Morn type.

A large-flowered strain especially valuable for window boxes is the "Balcony" type. Balcony White, Balcony Blue, Balcony Rose and Balcony Queen being fine varieties. These, from their long stems, which droop gracefully over the edges of window and porch boxes, furnish a charming effect.

Petunias should be started now for the summer beds, the small-flowering kinds being especially valuable to tuck in among the tulips and early-flowering bulbs so that they will be ready to cover the bed and furnish a fresh sheet of dazzling bloom when the tulips have gone.

The bedding petunias may be started in a cold frame to good advantage, as they will stand considerable frost but not a freeze. The seeds are so fine that care must be used in watering them so that they will not be washed out of the soil. Petunias thrive almost anywhere.

The fancy large-flowered strains need more careful culture and richer soil and more water to do their best than the small-flowered kinds.

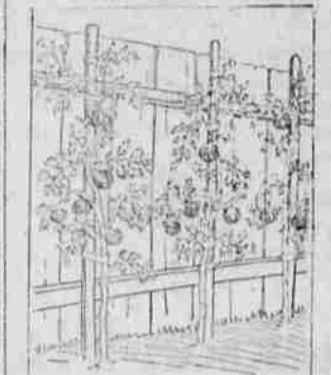
Back Fence Tomatoes.

Every gardener finds, as a rule, that he hasn't quite room enough for all the things he wants to plant. An effective scheme for utilizing all the space in a small yard was noted last summer. That is growing tomatoes against a fence fronting either south or west.

Strips were nailed at three-foot intervals from the upper and lower two-by-four to which, in the usual backyard fence the boards are nailed, and to these the tomatoes were trained, allowing branches to extend along the two-by-fours, both the upper and lower. With the fence reflecting the heat of the sun, the tomatoes were ripened much more quickly than if upon the ground. The same effect may be secured

by nailing strips of chicken wire fencing along the board fence and tying the tomatoes to it, but the wood strips are much more easy to handle.

The chicken wire, however, offers an excellent scheme for growing cu-



GROWING TOMATOES ON THE BACK FENCE

members in the least possible space, allowing them to climb upon the wire instead of running over the ground which is needed for other crops.

If your garden room is limited try the fence for tomatoes or cucumbers or both. They also furnish an ornamental feature, the greenery of the vines covering the fence and giving the appearance of a hedge at a little distance. It may be recalled that tomatoes when first introduced into cultivation were grown as ornamental plants under the name of "love apples" and their use as a vegetable was not learned until some time later. A scarlet tomato nestling among the deep green foliage has an ornamental character which is particularly well displayed in the fence scheme of growing them.

Grow Your Vitamins.

Have you taken your vitamins today?

This is now the pertinent question to be considered at meal time by all those interested in the proper diet to furnish efficient upkeep for the human machine. A short time back the health obsessives were greatly worried about their calories. They measured them out and ate according to caloric prescription.

Now the vitamin is the big idea. Just what a vitamin is has not yet been definitely determined but chemists and dietitians know that it is something in food, particularly vegetables and fruits, that is cell builders and without which food and nourishment are incomplete. Lack of vitamins leads to scurvy, according to latest discoveries.

Grow your own vitamins. Green vegetables—that is, vegetables eaten raw, contain plenty of them.

lettuce in particular. Dietitians agree that the widespread lettuce habit is one of the best things that ever happened to make for healthier dieting. Cooked vegetables also contain these mysterious subjects, if they are not overcooked. Another form of vitamin is found in food, fresh butter and milk. Cooking a fresh vegetable not too long and dressing it with real butter, or with cream, oils the human machine up with vitamins to keep it going at top speed.

A vitamin garden is, in effect, a salad garden if one wants to get his needed vitamins the easiest and quickest way. A little garden of lettuce, tomatoes, celery, young onions, parsley, endive, cress, corn salad, watercress and so on, for crisp fresh salads all year will fill the bill.

Lettuce Secrets.

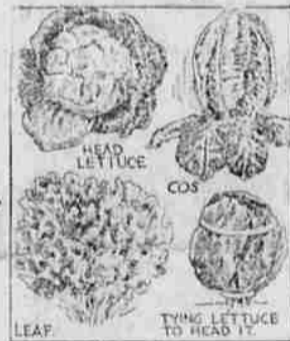
Lettuce growing is becoming a science, since the best of all salad vegetables has become a staple article of diet, and is in the market 365 days of the year. Commercially, the head lettuce has almost displaced the older leaf varieties but the home gardener knows that leaf lettuce is the earliest of all and just as finely flavored and tender as the big cabbage varieties. It is also the first lettuce to mature for table use, so small planting of a good leaf variety is advisable to give a crop before the head varieties are ready to eat.

Romaine or cos lettuce is making a very successful bid for home garden popularity. It is much easier to grow than the head lettuce, especially after the weather is warm, and it is fully as delicate. In fact, many people esteem it more highly for its tenderness.

The leaves, being long and narrow, and growing upright, naturally blanch the heart and this process is easily assisted by tying the tips of the leaves together lightly. It matures quickly.

Sowings of leaf, head and cos lettuce give a good succession.

The real way to get head lettuce that will really head and the only way is to start the plants either indoors or in a hotbed or cold frame, when the weather will not permit planting in the open and have the plants growing along to transplant as soon as the weather permits. Lettuce can be grown in the open ground for the greater part of the winter in many portions of the south and in others with a cold frame protection it can be kept going all winter. Seedlings can be



raised ready to set out in late February or March.

Head lettuce gives gardeners a great deal of trouble, largely because they drill the seeds into the soil and leave them too thick in the rows until they are so far advanced in growth the thinning does no good. Transplanting is most essential as the check to the growth seems to thicken up the plant and start it on its way to a head. When transplanting, after three or four leaves have been made, cut off half of them, that is snip the tips of the leaves for about half their length.

Lettuce must have heavily fertilized ground and the highest standard of cultivation. The plants must be kept cultivated and growing at top speed. Water should be supplied when a dry spell impends. If the ground is rich, well tilled, the plants, given a distance of at least six inches apart in the rows after transplanting and kept well cultivated, there is no reason why any gardener shouldn't have reasonably good head lettuce. The great problem in lettuce growing is to keep it growing without a check.

If you have not planned your flower and vegetable garden, this is the time to do it. Indications are that we will have an early spring, though not so early as last year. By all means plan to have a color scheme border of flowers somewhere in the garden this year. Delightful combination plantings of annuals may be made at very little cost, and the garden which is without this feature will be, to say the least, lacking in its interest.

Snapdragons — antirrhinums — are gorgeous material for color scheme plantings. They have been developed marvelously of recent years and where shade colors are planted in sizeable groups in pleasing contrast and harmony with each other, their beauty is seen to the best advantage. The Semi-Tail Sorts, growing 18 inches to 20 inches high, are the best for bedding because they require no support. Some of the finest varieties (by all means avoid having mixtures) are Amber Queen, a canary yellow, overlaid with chamois pink, gold lip; Black Prince, dark crimson; Grenadier, vivid orange, white throat, yellow lip; Mauve Queen, rosy mauve; Rose Dore, a pretty self-salmon rose, shaded gold; The Fawn, a delightful blend of terra cotta pink and pale yellow, soft and pleasing. If you wish to enjoy the full season of these splendid flowers, then the seed should be sown indoors at this time.

Twice the diameter of the seed is a direction often given as to the depth it should be planted, but some seeds are so small they don't seem to have any appreciable diameter, so this direction is not valuable. It is not a hard and fast rule to be followed. The finer the seed the lighter should be its covering, and in the finest and powder seeds they should merely be sprinkled upon the surface of the soil and gently pressed into it.

In light sandy soil deeper covering is necessary than in heavy clay-

and temperature have considerable to do with the depth of planting.

In the cool, moist days of spring lighter planting is necessary than in the hot summer days when a deeper planting is required to secure germination without the tender sprouts being shriveled by the heat and dryness of the soil.

The following list will give an excellent idea of the depth at which it is advisable to plant vegetable seeds for their best germination, soil and climatic conditions being taken into consideration:

- One to one and one-half inches—Asparagus, beets, cucumbers, melons.
- One-half to one inch — Onions, parsnips, radishes, salsify, tomatoes.
- One and one-half to two inches—Beans, watermelons, okra.
- One to two inches—Watermelons, squashes, spinach.
- One-half inch — Cabbages, carrot, cauliflower, celery, collards, turnips, lettuce.
- Two inches or more—Corn.

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4-18-22

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Commercial Organizations Have Come to Stay

A decade ago commercial organizations, variously known as chambers of commerce, commercial clubs and the like, were created to meet a compelling want in every community. Their probation period was a story of ups and downs, of financial distress and over-worked directors—of leaving too much for "George" to do. Community affairs and problems either were not met at all or were done in a haphazard way.

Today commercial organizations are an imperative necessity in every town. Even the daily mail inquires about roads, climate, business opportunities, this, that and the other thing must receive the same courteous answers that any civil man would give to a stranger at his door asking directions about the city.

And the commercial organization is now a fixed part of every city and town just the same as the church, the school and the lodge, and like all of these it must be financially sound in order to function.

The Union County Ad Club has been delegated with the commercial club duties of La Grande and for Union County when matters involving the county good arise. To date its income has been:

- Less than half the amount appropriated in Baker.
- One-fourth of Corvallis.
- One-fifth of Pendleton.

One-third of Bend, and so on down the list, while the results have been the equal of any of the above. But the present pace demands more finances.

The club must maintain an office and an office force equipped with necessary furniture and fixtures. This expense amounts to about \$3,000.00 annually. In addition it must—

Meet its share of the intermediate rate fight, the first round of which has been won by the interior towns represented by their commercial organizations.

It must meet its share of the Old Oregon Trail association.

It must meet its share of erecting tourist signs at Salt Lake, The Dalles, Ontario and other points.

It must have the descriptive literature ready to mail upon all inquiries.

It must be ready to entertain visitors in La Grande. It must be ready to fight for its share of road work.

It must meet the expense of conducting a protracted school of education in the interest of irrigation.

It must be ready to carry out the policies and the activities developed by the 26 committees of the club. All of this requires additional funds.

THE BENEFIT FROM ALL THESE ACTIVITIES WILL COME TO EVERY CITIZEN AND PROPERTY OWNER. THEREFORE IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT THE CITIZENS THROUGH COOPERATION HELP MAINTAIN THE CLUB.

A monthly amount from 500 people will do the business. Next week La Grande will be asked to meet its responsibility with the same generosity and expedience that it meets all other obligations looking toward the benefit of the community and its people.

Any citizen who is not now doing his share in the operation of the Union County Ad Club and feels his responsibility and is no longer willing to let somebody else pay his indebtedness to the community in which he lives, and who wishes more information about past activities and future plans can be enlightened by calling at the Ad Club headquarters at the Y. M. C. A.

TAXI

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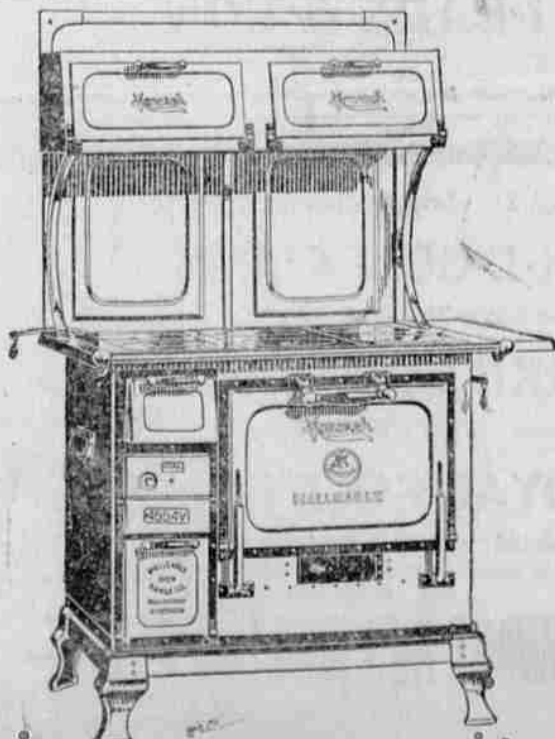
On the Road to Happiness

These young people are headed the right way to health, comfort, independence and happiness. We know of several people in this city who should be traveling the same road right now and we want to help you plan and

Build a Home of Your Own

Just come in and give us some idea of the kind of home you desire and we'll help you obtain the plans, complete estimate, and furnish everything you need in high quality home building lumber. Let's get together and end the days of high rent for you.

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