

# SCHOOL GARDENING ALREADY COMMENCED BY BOYS AND GIRLS



Sun and showers and spring have inaugurated a branch of education among the public schools, for which Portland is internationally distinguished. The school gardens are being planted.

Before some thousands of youthful city farmers the earth is spread as a text book—the daily lessons are concerned with the correct planting of peas and beans, cabbages and potatoes, lettuce and carrots.

Although supervision is planned and exercised, the real teacher in this branch of education is experience.

Thirty-four of the 55 schools will have community gardens. Each gar-

den will require about 75 gardeners, about 2500 altogether. Then there will be home gardens—in back yards and vacant lots—for which some of the schools and many of the children have a decided preference.

Howard Evans Weed, this year's garden supervisor, announces that each city farmer will be given the privileges of the county farmer. He or she may harvest the crops as they mature and offer them for sale either to the mother market, the neighbors or the public market down town. He believes the children should learn to put a dollar and cents measure of value on their work.

There will be no prizes for superior

vegetables, because it is the supervisor's idea that when prizes are offered these take first place in thought and ambition, neglecting the educational value of gardening.

**New Ideas Submitted.**

Another idea is to give each gardener a sense of proprietorship, permitting personal choice of things to be planted, in addition to the privilege of sale.

Some of the principals have complained, says the supervisor, that garden work takes overmuch school time. He believes he has found the reason for this complaint in the time required in laying out gardens and individual plots; so this is all being

done for the children.

There will be no excavated paths, he promises. Gardens will be marked out by cords, and paths will be trodden hard by busy feet; thus the early drying out of elevated beds will be avoided.

As much as possible gardens are located near the schools. Falling school garden, which last year was six blocks distant from the building, is now just across the street.

The Woodlawn school garden for three years has been a city demonstration farm. It has won first prizes in national contests. The large area on the west side of Union avenue, opposite the school, was cleared by the

children and produced many varieties of prize winning vegetables. This year the owner of the land asked a rental of \$250. The school board refused to pay this much, but offered to pay the taxes, \$137, holding that the clearing and cultivation of his property had enhanced it to such an extent that he should add a little public spirit and gladly tender its use.

**Smaller Tract Used.**

His refusal made it necessary to obtain use of a smaller tract, 100x150 feet, which the principal of the Woodlawn school believes will be sufficient for this year's more modest purposes. The new garden has been plowed, sub-

soiled, disked and fertilized under Supervisor Weed's direction and gives promise of productivity.

The Llewellyn school garden will attract much attention, thinks the supervisor. The principal, Mrs. Althaus, is very enthusiastic; the garden occupies 175 by 200 feet on school property.

Eastmoreland, Beaumont and Alameda Park schools are making gardens this year for the first time.

Falling, Fernwood, Glen Haven schools have their gardens planted. Llewellyn, Eastmoreland, Shattuck, Montavilla and Mt. Tabor schools have done part of the planting. Rain the past week disturbed planting plans.

Portland school children, boys and girls alike, have resumed their school garden work with enthusiasm, as these photographs, taken one sunny afternoon last week, show. The boy on the left is serious in his task of planting a bulb. The group of lads in the center, armed with garden tools, pause in their labors for a moment as an accommodation to the camera man. The girl on the right is placing seeds in her section of the school garden.

## HOW TO INCREASE OREGON'S CORN CROP



### Suggestions Relative to the Growing of This Grain in Pacific Northwest.

**By R. Robinson.**

That corn for grain can be grown successfully and profitably in Oregon has been demonstrated for several years past, and as mixed farming comes more and more into practice, especially in the Willamette valley, corn will become a much more important crop in the near future.

With the tendency to more intensive farming growing stronger as the population increases, the need of a crop producing at once a heavy yield of grain, in addition to a heavy crop of fodder, on the same ground, with the same work, will bring corn into favor, probably at the top of the list of farm products so far as the dairy farmer is concerned, giving a maximum double crop with a minimum of labor.



Top—A good stand of ensilage corn on Oregon farm. Bottom—L. S. Smith of Baker county and some specimen ears grown by him.

**When to Plant.**

It may not be generally known that the North American Indians quite thoroughly understood how to raise what we call Indian corn. Long before the white man came to America, the botanical name "Zea Mays" seems to be of Haytian origin.

Hence our name of maize, but it is a fact that the plant was cultivated for ages in America, Mexico, South America and the West Indies, before the white man came to America. The corn originated in this western hemisphere, but that is about all that is known of its origin.

When the Indian of North America wanted to find out if it was time to plant corn, he went to the woods and examined the buds on the trees. When the oak leaf was as big as a squirrel's foot, it was time to plant corn.

**Wet Ground Bad.**

That rule is good yet, as no matter what section of North America you may happen to live in, the rule will find you planting corn at a time when the danger of spring frosts is well past, which in the Willamette valley would be from about the twentieth of April to the tenth of May; for eastern Oregon, say 15 days later, depending on the season being early or backward. This would give 20 days in which to choose the time to plant, but the earlier the better, if the ground is warm and dry. Do not plant corn while the ground is wet and sticky.

A good sandy loam is the most suit-

able soil for corn, and though a good crop can be raised on heavy clay, I would not advise the beginner to try it without having fully prepared the field the year before, giving it the rough barn yard manure. Plow it deep that spring, then again in the fall.

**Plow in Spring.**

Always plow corn ground in the spring in this section. The ground should have been plowed deep the previous year, but now do not plow quite so deep and you will have the ground in the best shape to hold moisture as well as to feed the young plants, on account of the top soil that has been exposed to the weather during the winter being turned under, where the roots will soon find it. Harrow the ground down very fine and smooth. If it is bright, dry weather, it is better to harrow all soil as soon as it is plowed, if it has any tendency to get lumpy. If the weather is damp, harrow during the day.

Plowing in the evening will do, but do not allow the plowed ground to lie exposed to the sun and wind day after day even if it is not lumpy, as the moisture evaporates very fast when it is in the rough, and our Oregon sum-

## COLLECTION OF WILD FLOWERS IS UNUSUAL



### Mrs. W. D. Fenton Tells of Her Interest in Ferns and Plants.

**By Vella Winner.**

While it is true that pure, noble thoughts will enable any one to better appreciate the beauty of flowers or of natural scenery, still there are few indeed who do not instinctively admire flowers, no matter whether seen growing in their native places in the woods and fields or cultivated in the garden or greenhouse.

To the true lover of nature the flowers and ferns of the world appeal everywhere more strongly than do cultivated blossoms, their delicate, unobtrusive beauty and subtle, woody odor giving them a charm all their own.

"I have loved the flowers and ferns of the fields ever since I was a little girl," said Mrs. W. D. Fenton, in discussing her very interesting and unusual collection of wild flowers and ferns which distinguishes her home at 110 East Sixteenth street. "And for 20 years I have been gathering wild ferns and flowers and adding them to my collection. I have an especially fine collection of the Oregon ferns, than which there is none more luxuriant or more beautiful, and they have several very interesting ones from the east and from Europe."

### Answer to Query on Rose Culture Concerning Pruning and Fertilizer.

My bushes seem to be rather straggly. How can I prune them to get them to grow up more as rose bushes should?

How many canes should be left to a bush?

Should the young shoots which grew up last fall be pruned off?

Is barn yard fertilizer good for roses? MRS. JAMES GALBRAITH.

Drawing conclusions from the questions as set forth above the rose bushes mentioned have not been pruned sufficiently or not at all in the past and in order to get them in good shape again it will be necessary to do a very severe pruning this spring.

It is still time enough to prune roses back if done immediately and my advice would be to select three to five or six of the best and most vigorous branches which have their direct growth from the ground and cut them back not more than 15 inches above the ground. All the other small branches may then be cut back also to four or five inches or if there are no small twigs left it will not matter any. Such severe pruning will renovate the form and the life of a rosebush, better than you expect and even if their number is greatly reduced their improved quality will amply repay for that loss. Where very large branches have to be sawed off it will be a wise precaution to put some paint over the cuts when the pruning is completed. This will prevent decay from entering into the branches left on the plants.

To say exactly how many canes ought to be left on a bush is rather difficult to do without seeing the plants. The size of the bushes and their vigor is so variable that where, in one case, six are not too many, in another three canes might be too much for the subject of rose culture.

The length to leave these canes is also a matter hard to decide to very best advantage without seeing the plants, but in general the tendency of amateurs is not to cut back enough and not to thin out sufficiently.

Well rotted barnyard manure cannot be surpassed as a fertilizer for rose bushes and liberal quantities of it may be used as a dressing six inches deep about the subject of rose culture.

Young growth that started only last fall is usually best cut off, entirely.

In any public library you may find books on the subject of rose culture which might help you very much in case you could find an opportunity to read them.

### Excuses No Help

If there is one thing you want to go light on it is excuses. No business manager cares a hang what your excuse may be for falling down on your job. It is up to you to do your work. If you don't do it, never hand out a long line of excuses. Just try to make it evident that the mistake won't happen again, and then put all your energy to seeing that it doesn't happen. Some girls seem fairly made of ex-

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Let's English Women Go.

London, April 3.—Through the offices of the American minister at Brussels, Brand Whitlock, the British foreign office announced that permission had been obtained from the German authorities for British women and children to leave Belgium. A special train will convey them from Brussels to the Dutch frontier.

### Excuses No Help

**Little Trilliums Tucked Away.**

Tucked away in the protecting shade of larger shrubs no less than 25 of the little triangular trilliums are raising their white waxen heads for admiration. The delicate little starry blossoms of the erythronium, or, as it is more generally known, the "lamb's tongue," have not yet burst their buds, but the plants in Mrs. Fenton's collection are fine and sturdy, and a burst of bloom is expected. In one corner of the yard a bush covered with the pink bloom of the wild currant gives a dash of color.

Little later in the season the old-fashioned "Jack-in-the-Pulpit" which Mrs. Fenton brought from Vermont, will bloom. Solomon's seal and wild ferns are also massed in this same spot.

The azalea plants, some of them natives of Oregon, and others native of the Allegheny mountains, are massed in a large, round bed cut in the grass,

### Excuses No Help

while along a fence is still another variety of the same flower from the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. This particular variety has a flame-colored blossom of rare brilliancy. The Oregon azalea is found in greatest profusion in the southern part of the state. The blossoms are creamy white and pink.

Mrs. Fenton is especially proud of her Mount Hood lilies, which are found in great numbers on the sides of the famous snow-crowned mountain. The Oregonian is a lavender. She has also a wild tiger lily. Still another variety of wild flower is the galax, which is much like the wild ginger, except that it takes on a red tone in winter.

**Shrubs and Trees Also.**

The collection includes a number of the shrubs and trees which abound in such numbers in the northwest; chief among these is the Oregon grape; then there is the wild laurel from Kalama, the Alpine plant and two heather plants, one from Scotland and another from Holland.

Just now Mrs. Fenton's great collection of wild ferns is in a state of unfolding, the tender young fronds are bursting through the soil and raising their curling heads to unfold later into great lacy leaves. A great mass of the always lovely sword ferns occupies a large space beneath an overhanging window. A little farther around the house there are three large clumps of the chain fern, or Woodwardia radicans, one of the most luxuriant of all the wild ferns. The fronds sometimes reach

### Excuses No Help

four feet in length. The eastern variety is best for these ferns, as they require a little more sun than do most ferns. They are natives of the Blue Mountains.

Another fern is the lemon variety, which Mrs. Fenton found on the Mt. Kenzie river. She also has specimens of the phegopteris, or oak fern, the frond resembling the oak leaf. The leather-leaf, or polypod, is so called because of the thick, leathery looking leaf. Parley ferns have been brought from the rocks about Seaside. The deer fern has a long, tender frond, and resembles the sword in form. An evergreen fern comes from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and is known as the prickly shield. The foliage is rich and glossy.

**Other Varieties There, Too.**

Other varieties are the hart's tongue, which comes from Vermont; the ostrich plume, which, as its name suggests, is feathery and graceful; the holy fern, which are ideally adapted for use in fern dishes; and then there are ferns from Great Britain and from Italy, quaint, graceful and unusual, and each one with its own little story.

In the corner, near the steps leading to the house, is a great mass of maidenhair, with which Mrs. Fenton has splendid success. "The maidenhair must have special care in that it must be protected from the sun, and then it cannot be sprayed; I always lay the hose down and let the ground become saturated. But I never, under any consideration, throw the force of water on the fronds," said Mrs. Fenton.