

BERNARD JOY WON NATIONAL CONTEST

Oregon Youth Holds Championship Title for Gardening

Every year there is staged at Louisville, Ky., a national contest for young gardeners by the Market Growers Journal. A full set of rules are provided and the competition is very keen. It is a matter of a good deal of satisfaction that an Oregon boy, Bernard Joy



BERNARD JOY

of Jackson county, is grand champion in this national contest.

Bernard read of the contest and sent to the paper a copy of his regular club final report which won for him the national championship.

The picture shows him to be a bright young man and great hopes are entertained for the improvements he will be able to make in gardening and general farming conditions in Oregon and the northwest.

I find the best way to tell the story of my work is first to give the report of my lettuce. This report was written for a National Junior Gardeners contest.

My first experience in Club work came in 1922. In 1923 I was sent as a delegate of my club to the Boys' and Girls' Club summer school at the Oregon Agricultural college in Corvallis, Oregon. Our instructor in gardening, Prof. Engquist, gave those students who wanted them copies of the Market Growers Journal. I took one and brought it home to my father who runs a market garden on a small scale. He subscribed for it and through it I became much interested because of the exhibits I saw and decided to take up the work myself this year.

I planted lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons, muskmelons, lima beans, cabbage, eggplant and onions. The total area of my garden is about one-sixth of an acre, and of this about one-twentieth of an acre was planted to lettuce which was my largest crop.

Although I could have ploughed my own garden because of getting my club literature late the land I wished to use was already prepared. This was done by my father in late winter and early spring. I got my lettuce seed when Dad got his. I used one-tenth of an ounce of seed which cost one dollar per ounce. It was of the New York or Doris Iceberg variety.

This seed was planted by the local greenhouse about February 4th. It was raised to pricking out size for 25 cents per flat, 18x20 inches. These plants were pricked out between February 25 and March 1 in the same size flats.

They were set about one and one-half inches apart and one flat from the greenhouse would set six flats.

These were set in the open ground from March 25 to 30th. One flat set one row, 120 feet long in which the plants were about a foot apart. I set out five rows, two feet apart and in the first and fourth rows I left every seventh plant out and later planted muskmelons and watermelons in these places. (See chart page.)

The spring was the driest it has been for about 50 years, but because I had water and because of my early crops it was not very difficult to keep my crop growing well.

For more exact data my summary of receipts and expenses gives you everything. In general for fertilizer after one two horse loads of manure which was put on before the land was plowed. I put on two lots of nitrate of soda, one of 20 and the other of 25. The first was put on as the heads began to form and the second five days later.

I spent 1 1/2 hours in cultivating, irrigating, hoeing and covering up ditches. Four hours were spent in harvesting.

I started to cut my lettuce on May 2 and continued until June 4th. During this time I sold 23 1/2 dozen lettuce heads to the local merchants. Of this all but one-third of a dozen heads, which sold at a dollar a dozen, sold at 90 cents per dozen.

The local merchants were very anxious to get lettuce as they had shipped from California had been fumigated because of the foot and mouth disease and people would not buy it. We live about a mile from a city of 9000 and as there are only two other gardeners with which to compete and as neither one of these had lettuce at this time, Dad and I had the markets to ourselves because our crop was early.

I usually cut my lettuce early in the morning. I would trim, wash and crate it and my father would take care of the selling and delivering it. For marketing Dad charged eight per cent commission. Dad and I are members of the local Fruit and Produce Association through which I sold 20 1/2 dozen heads at prices ranging from 90 to 75 cents per dozen heads. I took in a total of \$28 on this plot and at the present time have harvested about half of a crop of melons which we are using at home.

I planted a small amount of lettuce in the open ground on February first. Eight weeks later I transplanted these in blank rows left in my father's beds, turnips and onions. The rows are five feet apart and there were four rows between lettuce rows. There were three rows 180 feet long and a part of another row. The plants were a foot apart and two feet were left after every fourth plant for cucumbers, tomatoes and cabbage.

I mentioned in my report the unavoidable tip burn of lettuce, and I also had many burned peppers. Despite all this my great trouble was lack of water. We were allowed water only four hours a week after the middle of July and none in September when it was needed to help make good vegetables to exhibit at the state fair.

All my products were marketed by my father much as my lettuce was. I received first on my exhibit at the county fair. I also furnished watermelon, a muskmelon, two egg fruit, a one layer box of tomatoes, some cucumbers, two plates of red peppers and some lima beans.

COMPLETE SUMMARY OF ALL CROPS

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