

# BEAVER STATE HERALD

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## Making Money On the Farm

### XVIII.—The Vegetable Garden

By C. V. GREGORY,  
Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture"  
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**A** GOOD vegetable garden will produce at least half of the family's living during the summer months, to say nothing of the vegetables that may be canned or stored in the cellar for winter use. Many farmers object to a garden as causing too much work. That is largely because they make it so. The largest item of work is hoeing, and if the garden is properly planned and managed little of that will need to be done. The mistake most often made is in the location of the garden. It is put in a little corner back of the house where there is no room to use horse tools. It is much better to plant a few fruit trees in such a space and locate the garden some place where it can be worked by horsepower.

**Securing Early Vegetables.**  
A south slope is best if early vegetables are wanted. A sandy soil is also a big help in getting things started early, but almost any soil may be made to give good results by draining and manuring. Fall plowing is a necessary step in getting the garden planted early. Then as soon as it is dry enough to work in the spring it should be disked and harrowed until the best possible seed bed is produced.

Earliness is a prime essential in a vegetable garden. One of the main satisfactions to having a garden is in being able to send a mess of peas or a watermelon to the neighbors before they have any of their own. Then,

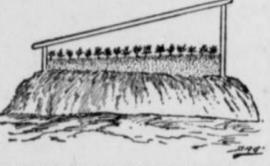


FIG. XXXV.—SECTION OF HOTBED.

too, the family begins to get hungry for green stuff usually long before there is any for use.

Besides having light, early soil, a south slope and preparing the ground early, there are a number of other devices that can be resorted to to secure earliness. One of the most important of these is the hotbed. A hotbed costs little, and after its advantages have once been found out by actual trial it is seldom abandoned. The best location for a hotbed is on the south side of a building. It should face the south in order to get the most possible heat from the sun. The main source of heat, however, is fermenting horse manure. A pit may be dug for the manure, but the hotbed will be just as successful if the manure is piled on top of the ground. The pile should be about two feet deep and should be spread out flat and packed tightly. It should extend out about two feet each way from the frame that is to be used. The manure used should have the proper proportions of straw and moisture, so that it will be springy, but not too loose.

It is a fact that much of the success of the hotbed depends on the proper condition of this heat supply. If the manure is too far advanced in decomposition the fermentation will not be active enough to generate the proper amount of heat. On the other hand, if active fermentation has not already begun the necessary heat will not be on hand when it is wanted, and germination and growth will be altogether too slow. A little careful attention to this matter will prevent disappointment.

The frame may be of any desired size, according to the size of glass that can be secured. A storm window makes a good top for a hotbed. If no glass can be secured a sash covered with muslin may be used. The frame should be about eight inches deep in front and fourteen behind. As soon as the manure has been packed in place the frame should be placed upon it and about five inches of rich soil placed inside. The best way to get this soil is to store it away in a barrel the fall before, as you will want it long before the ground thaws in the spring.

#### Managing the Hotbed.

The proper time to start the hotbed is about six weeks before the ground outside will be ready for planting. About three days after the hotbed has been started the temperature will have become uniform, and the seeds can be planted. They can be planted thickly, since they are to be taken up before they have made much growth. The principal plants started in a hotbed are cabbages and tomatoes. Lettuce and radishes may also be grown in the hotbed and if planted thinly enough may be left there until they are large enough to use. If you want a few early melons or cucumbers the seeds may be planted in strawberry boxes of dirt and placed in the hotbed. When the weather is sufficiently warm outside they may be set out in the garden. The roots will make their way through the sides of the box, and three or four weeks will be saved. This is a clever device for treating early sowings of plants which do not bear transplanting. Started in this way early in

the season they may be transferred, box and all, into the garden bed and suffer no setback.

During cold nights the hotbed should be covered with straw or old carpets to keep it from getting too cold inside. On sunny days the sash may have to be raised during the warmer part of the day to give ventilation. The plants should be watered in the morning on warm days only to prevent too great a reduction of temperature.

A cold frame is almost as necessary as a hotbed. The plants raised in a hotbed are very tender and are liable to be injured if transplanted directly to the garden. The cold frame is made the same as a hotbed except that no manure is used. After the plants have obtained a good start in the hotbed they should be transferred to the cold frame. The plants in the cold frame are gradually accustomed to the outside air by leaving the sash up for longer periods each day. This transplanting also helps the tomatoes and cabbages in another way, in that it makes them thicker stemmed and causes better root development. A stocky plant of this kind is always a better grower and yielder.

#### Early Potatoes.

A good way to secure earliness in the case of potatoes is to pack a number in sand somewhere where they will get plenty of light. This should be done a week or so before planting time. As soon as the ground is ready these tubers are set out carefully so as not to break off the sprouts which have started. A week or more in the earliness of the crop can be saved in this way. The early potatoes may be planted rather shallow and a thick coating of straw placed between the rows. On nights when there is danger of freezing, the plants can be covered with straw. No cultivation will be necessary, since the straw will keep the weeds down and conserve moisture. When digging time comes the straw can be thrown back and the potatoes will be found on top of the ground, or nearly so. Of course this plan is not practicable except for a few rows of the earliest potatoes.

#### Rhubarb and Asparagus.

Another method of securing early vegetables is by the use of perennials, or those which come up from the roots each year. The most important of these are asparagus and rhubarb. Asparagus is one of the most delicious vegetables that can be grown, and it fills in a space in the spring when there is nothing else available. Rhubarb comes nearer to being a fruit, making appetizing sauce and pies.

In starting an asparagus bed the land should be manured heavily and plowed deeply. One year old plants grown from seed should be planted four inches deep and a foot apart in rows three feet apart. The early spring treatment of the asparagus bed consists in giving it a thorough disking. After the cutting season is over a liberal coating of manure should be scattered between the rows. The stalks should be cut in the fall before the berries are fully ripe to keep the bed from becoming filled with seedlings. Asparagus cannot be cut much before it is three years old. Rhubarb is easily grown from roots planted around in any out of the way corner and kept well mulched and manured.

In planting the garden those plants which have the same habits of growth should be put together. The early crops should also be bunched as much as possible. In some cases an early crop may be got out of the way in time to put a later one on the same ground.

#### Cultivation.

The garden should be laid out in long rows and as much of the cultivation as possible done with a horse cultivator. A one horse walking cultivator is best for this work. A wheel hoe to get close to the plants and into the corners is a valuable addition to the equipment. As a last resort a hand hoe may have to be used once in awhile to get the weeds out of the row. Changing the garden to a new place every few years is a big help in keeping weeds in check. If the garden is put on clean soil in the first place and few weeds are allowed to go to seed the labor problem will be greatly simplified.

#### Insects.

Of all the insects that attack garden crops the one that probably causes the most trouble is the striped cucumber beetle. A practice often followed where but a few hills of vine crops are grown is to cover the young plants with a frame of mosquito netting. A



FIG. XXXVI.—THE CABBAGE PATCH.

better plan is to knock the beetles to the ground by a slight blow and kill each one with a drop of kerosene. Sprinkling the plants with pepper, tobacco dust or air slaked lime will help some.

Paris green, applied at the rate of one pound to a hundred gallons of water, with four pounds of freshly slaked lime added to prevent injury to the foliage, is one of the best remedies for cabbage worms and most of the other insects that infest garden crops. The big tomato worms can best be killed by knocking them off into a can of kerosene.

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

**ONE OF THE** most striking instances in the history of our country of the evil that sometimes befalls those who are of noble intention and philanthropic temperament is shown in the reports that are now coming to us daily of the trial of the persons accused of instigating or producing the deaths that have occurred in the Swope family of Kansas City within the last few months. The Swope family were pioneers in the country a few miles south of Kansas City. They were prosperous and the growth of the city added to the wealth produced by their business management till years ago the founder of the family was recognized as among the millionaire class of the city. Ten years ago the old gentleman presented to the city the most extensive single park area anywhere around the town. There were about 1400 acres, level areas, woodlands, open fields, winding brooks, abrupt hillsides, and about everything that goes to make a beautiful parksite. For these ten years every known device has been exercised to beautify Swope park. The place has become famous for its remarkable beauty, its artistic development and its great size. But the old man's generosity was exercised in other ways. It was so broad that it excited the opposition of his relatives, and particularly of his relatives-in-law, and now we find one of them being tried for causing the death of different members of the family, particularly the head. The case has so far advanced that the presiding judge has shown his view of the guilt of the defendant by remanding him to jail, instead of allowing him the liberties of being out on bail. The judge probably foresees the proper end whether that is the final jury judgment or not. The most regrettable feature of the whole matter is the sad termination of so patriotic a citizen.

## IT IS AN open question if President Taft has not done the country a harm by appointing Governor Hughes to a seat in the Supreme Court. Not that Mr. Hughes is not eminently capable, honorable, and in every other way fitted for the position to which he has been elevated. Perhaps he is just the man for the place. Undoubtedly he has every quality that a man should have who is elevated to that place, but being retired to the supreme bench is an old saw. It puts an active, aggressive man in a non-political position. Mr. Hughes will not be a figure in New York politics any longer, nor will his political contemporaries of other sections of the country have any further fear of his active opposition. It will relieve New York of the best governor she has had for many a year, and leave her guessing where she will find his equal. Whether the Hughes influence in the court will be equal to the Hughes influence in the political arena is a question that will require a lot of historical data to determine. The effect will not be so immediate as to be felt for some time to come. His influence as governor is, and has been, electrifying—the governor has been a live wire.

## A STORY OF MEISSONIER.

The Painter's Two Breakfasts With a Stingy Art Patron.

Meissonier once got acquainted with a Parisian grandee, very wealthy, very fond of posing as an art patron, but slightly penurious. One day Meissonier, breakfasting with the grandee, was struck by the beauty of the texture of the tablecloth. "One could draw upon it," he remarked, and, suiting the action to the word, he produced a pencil and made on the smooth, snowy nap a wonderfully able sketch of a man's head. The particular tablecloth in question never went to the wash. The "economical swell" had the head carefully cut out of the damask and hastened to frame and glaze his prize. A few weeks afterward Meissonier again breakfasted with his patron and found by the side of his plate at the corner of the table assigned to him a neat little sheaf of crayons and holders, with a penknife and some India rubber.

While the guests, at the conclusion of the repast, were enjoying their coffee and cigarettes the host saw with delight "from the corner of his eye" that Meissonier was hard at work on the tablecloth, this time with a super-little full length of a mediaeval halberdier. The party broke up, the guests departed, and the "economical swell" rushed back to the dining room to secure his treasure. But, alas, the painter had for once shown himself as economical as his patron! He had made disastrously good use of the penknife, and one corner of the tablecloth was gone, halberdier and all!

## Bismarck on the Throne of France.

Bismarck on the throne of France! Bismarck was once spoken of in that connection, and by Napoleon too! It was during the detention of the de-throned emperor at Wilhelmshohe in 1871, when Napoleon and some members of his staff were discussing the probability of Napoleon reascending the French throne and news of the doings of the commune was brought in. "Horrible—too horrible!" exclaimed the pett emperor.

And then after a long silence he resumed, "I know a man who if on the French throne would be master of Germany in six months."  
"His name, sire?" asked his nephew, Prince Murat.  
"Bismarck," replied the emperor as he turned on his heel.

Don't make arrangements to be out of the county June 6th to 10th. The Rose Festival will claim your attention that week.

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Jenne.....	6:25	7:25	8:25	9:25	10:25	11:25	12:25	1:25	2:25	3:25	4:25	5:25	6:25	11:40	.....
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CAZADERO.....Ar	7:25	8:25	9:25	10:25	11:25	12:25	1:25	2:25	3:25	4:25	5:25	6:25	7:25	12:40	.....

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