

Gardening on a Small Scale

 This is the second of a series of three articles by W. H. Robertson, Assistant Horticulturist to the Department of Agriculture, Province of British Columbia, on "Gardening on a City Lot." Climatic conditions in British Columbia are much similar to what they are in the Northwest.—Editor.

PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN.

IT IS often necessary to start plants of certain crops before the danger of frost is over. This may be done by sowing the seed in shallow boxes, which may be put in a South window of a dwelling house, or by sowing in a hotbed, or in a coldframe for later plants. Early cabbage, early cauliflower, tomatoes, celery, etc., are started in this way, and later transplanted two or three times before finally setting them in the open ground. The shallow box, about four inches deep, does very well to start the early plants in when only a few are required. Fill this box about three-quarters full of good soil made up of one part well-rotted manure, three parts good garden loam or rotted sods, and one part of fine sand. Have holes in the bottom of the box so that it will drain easily. The seed may be sown in rows and about one-quarter inch deep, or sown broadcast and covered with a light covering of soil.

In order to lengthen the season of fresh vegetables, and also to raise plants of varieties that require a long season, the hotbed is often employed. The heat for this is supplied by fermenting stable manure. When collecting the manure, care should be taken to see that it is not "fire-fanged" or "burnt out." It should be well tramped, and when the necessary amount has been collected it should be turned over once, allowed to stand until thoroughly heated, and then made into a hotbed.

The hotbed should be located on the south side of buildings or a fence, and protected from cold winds as much as possible. The location should also be drained. A two-sash frame will be large enough for use in the average garden. The frame for supporting two sashes will need to be 6x6 feet, 18 inches high at the back and 12 inches in the front. Each sash will be 3x6 feet. Other sizes may be used and the frame made accordingly.

The manure may be put into a pit which is about 18 inches deep, or placed on the surface of the ground to the depth of about 2 feet. The bed of manure in either case should extend a foot beyond each side of the frame. As each layer of manure is placed on the bed it should be tramped firmly. After placing frame on bed, bank the manure around the side, and place then a few inches of soil on top of manure in the frame. Cover with sash, and when temperature has dropped to 80 degrees, seed may be sown in the soil in the hotbed, or in flat boxes similar to those recommended for use in the house.

In the management of hotbeds do not allow temperature to run too high. Open slightly in daytime, to permit fresh air to enter and rank gases to escape. Water during the middle of the day, and keep soil damp, but not wet.

Before transplanting plants grown in the hotbed to the open field they should be "hardened off." This should be started about two weeks before the plants are ready to be transplanted, and may be accomplished by increasing the time each day that the sash is kept off the frame, until it is removed altogether.

Cultural Methods for Different Vegetables.

Asparagus—The patch to be started by sowing seed or by buying one-year-old plants. Plant seeds about six inches apart, and transplant the following year to permanent rows four feet apart, and plants twenty inches apart in the rows.

Rich ground is necessary and a heavy application of manure well worked into the soil is essential to

ensure proper growth. When preparation is completed, dig out a trench six inches deep and four inches wide and set plant in the bottom. Cover the plants with three inches of soil, and as plants grow fill in with soil until surface level is reached. Keep well hoed through the summer. In the fall cut off old stalks and burn.

Cutting is commenced the third year after planting and may be kept up until the end of June, but not later.

Beans—Beans require a rich, warm, loose soil. This can be accomplished by digging and working thoroughly before planting. With the exception of the Broad Windsor, beans should not be sown until all danger of frost is over. Broad beans should be sown early in the spring, as they require a long, cool season.

Beets—For the early crop the seed may be sown as soon as the ground can be prepared in the spring. For the winter crop the seed may be sown about June 1st. A rich soil and constant cultivation are necessary to produce quality. On a new piece of soil a light dressing of slaked lime well worked into the soil before planting will be found to be beneficial.

Broccoli—Closely resemble cauliflower, although the heads are smaller and the plant is much hardier. It is a cool-weather crop and really makes the best growth during the

fall. Heads are blanched in the same way as cauliflower. Recommended as a winter crop for Vancouver Island. Sowing may be made at the same time as cabbages.

Cabbage—For early cabbage a well-drained piece of soil is desirable, while late cabbage will do better on a cooler and heavier soil. Thorough working of the soil in the spring as well as in the fall is advisable.

For early cabbage the seed may be sown in the hotbed from February 1st to March 1st. Transplant the seedlings about three weeks later into a coldframe in order to harden them off. About three weeks later transplant to the garden. Early cabbage may also be started by sowing the seeds in rows about six inches apart in the garden about the end of July, and transplanting to permanent rows in the garden about September 1st. Here they are allowed to pass the winter and will be in satisfactory shape to start growth in the spring. Early plants for spring planting may also be secured by planting seed about the middle of August and leaving in the seedling rows through the winter. Late cabbage seed is usually sown about the end of April and the plants set in the field about June 1st. Constant cultivation should be given as cabbage requires lots of moisture.

Cauliflower—Any soil that will grow good cabbage will do for cauliflower. Continuous growth is important, as any check to growth will give a product poor in quality. The early and late varieties are started

the same as early and late cabbage. When the heads are about the size of a teacup, the leaves should be tied together at the top or broken over so as to shade the flower; this ensures a good white flower.

Celery—The chief requirements for celery are plenty of moisture and an abundant supply of plant-food. Barnyard manure is the best fertilizer and heavy applications should be made.

The seed for early celery should be started in shallow boxes any time about the middle of March. When about three inches high, transplant to boxes similar to those in which the plants were grown. Here they are set three inches apart each way and remain until they are set in the garden row. For late celery the seed may be sown in a bed made in one corner of the garden. The seed is sown thinly, covered lightly, and the plants grow here until set in the garden row.

When setting plants in the garden row the double row system will prove the most satisfactory. Here the plants are planted five inches apart and the two rows six inches apart. If a second row is planted, it should be at least four feet from the first double row. In planting, do not dig out a trench, but plant on the level, and in order to blanch the celery in the fall, heap the earth up around it.

When storing, dig with roots on; stand upright in earth in cellar or pit. Place two rows together, with a few inches between the double rows.



Don't Smoke Too Much

"Yes, many men smoke too much," said the old gentleman.
 "I found that out years ago in my own case. I cut down my smokes but without depriving myself. Instead of those extra cigars between meals I just take a little chew once in a while. I get as much pleasure as when I smoke, I spend less money for tobacco and what's more, every tooth in my head is sound. You know tobacco preserves the teeth."

There are thousands of men who use their tobacco in this practical way; and their favorite chew is that old established brand—the leader of them all—

STAR CHEWING TOBACCO