

Gardening on a Small Scale

This is the third and last of a series of articles by W. H. Robertson, assistant Horticulturist of the Department of Agriculture, Province of British Columbia, treating of gardening methods on a small scale.

CULTURAL METHODS FOR DIFFERENT VEGETABLES.

(Continued.)

SWEET CORN—The soil should be very rich in plant food. A heavy application of barnyard manure and soil worked well are essential to success. Sow seed as soon as danger from frost is over. Constant hoeing is necessary to keep down weeds and maintain growth.

Cucumber—The general recommendations made for corn apply also to this vegetable. Hills are made about four feet apart each way. A large quantity of manure is dug into a hill and the seed planted when danger of frost is over. About eight seeds are planted, but when the plants are up all are removed but four in a hill. Seeds may also be started in a hotbed and the plants transplanted to the garden.

Herbs—All herbs are grown from seed sown in the open ground in early Spring. A shallow furrow is dug with a trowel or hoe, the seed scattered in this furrow and covered lightly with soil. Summer savory and sweet marjoram should be cut when in full bloom, and sage should be cut before fall rains and the foliage badly. Parsley sown in the Spring may be left in the ground during the Winter, where it will remain fit for use at any time.

Lettuce—Plenty of manure and water are essential. The seed may be sown in the open as soon as the ground can be worked in the Spring. For a fall crop the seed may be sown the last of August.

Onions—Well-worked soil rich in plant-food is essential. Work the soil thoroughly by digging and raking. Sow seed in shallow furrow and firm soil over the seed. Seeding should commence as soon as possible in the Spring in order that the plants become well established before the hot, dry weather. When plants are large enough to be used as green onions they should be thinned to about four inches apart. The withering and falling of the tops indicate maturity and the onions should be pulled. After pulling, leave them in rows on the ground to dry; this will take about a week; when dry, they may be topped and stored.

Onion-sets may be bought as desired from the seedsman. They may be set in the Spring as soon as all danger from frost is over, care being taken not to set too deeply. The same care and preparation of the soil as recommended for onions is advisable for growing onions from sets. The sets should be placed in rows fourteen inches apart and three inches apart in the rows. When placed in the rows they should be barely covered.

Parsnip—Parsnip require the same kind of soil and preparation as advised for carrots. The plants are sown in drills and thinned to four inches apart.

Peas—Peas may be sown in the Spring as soon as the ground can be worked. Thorough manuring and the deep-working of the soil is recommended. Seed is sown in rows two feet apart. Successional sowings may be made up until the middle of May, but as the pea is a cool-season vegetable early plantings are the most successful.

Radish—The seed may be sown in the Spring as soon as the ground is fit to work. Successive sowings ten days apart may be made until June 1st. Fall plantings may be made between the middle and the end of August. It also makes a very good crop for hotbed work.

Rhubarb—A rich soil is very desirable for rhubarb. A heavy application of barnyard manure combined with deep and thorough digging should be the rule before setting out the plants.

Plants may be obtained either by planting from seed or by obtaining

crowns. For the home garden it is more satisfactory to buy plants from the nurseryman or florist. Planting may be done in either the Fall or Spring, and the plant set so that the top is just below the level of the ground.

The first year it is advisable to remove as few stalks as possible in order that the roots may become well established. Manure heavily in the late Winter or early Spring and dig into the ground.

In order to force rhubarb in the small garden, the following practice is usually carried out: About February 1st invert a barrel over each rhubarb-root, and then bank the sides to the height of at least two feet with barnyard manure. In about three weeks the rhubarb under the barrel will be fit for use.

Spinach—One of the earliest garden products. The seed may be sown in the Spring as soon as the ground can be worked, and successional sowings made every two weeks until the middle of May. The ground cannot be made too rich, and the richer it is the less liable the plant is to go to seed. For a Fall crop, seeding should be done about August 1st. For a crop that you intend to carry through the Winter and use in the early Spring, seeding should be done about September 1st.

Squash—The hills for planting are prepared similarly to those recommended for cucumber growing. The hills are placed in rows six feet apart each way. Plant seed as soon as danger from late frost is past. Vegetable marrow may be used as soon as they are of sufficient size. Late varieties may be harvested as soon as the vines begin to die in the fall. When harvesting, leave part of the stem attached to the squash, as this will lessen danger from rot.

Squash should be stored in a thoroughly dry and frost-proof room.

Tomatoes—For the garden, plants may be raised by the gardener or obtained from the greenhouse man. The latter will be found to be the most satisfactory for the city man. Plants are set in the garden in rows three feet apart and from eighteen inches to two feet apart in the row. The plants are set in the ground when they are seven to nine inches high and are trained to a single stem, which is supported by tying to a stake. All laterals are removed, and when the plant is about four feet high it is pinched back.

Turnips—For the early crop the seed may be sown as soon as the ground can be worked in the Spring. For the main crop for Winter use the seed is sown about June 1st. A continuous growth is necessary to produce quality; a growth checked by heat or lack of moisture develops a root containing much fibre and lacking in quality.

Insects.

Cabbage Maggot—This insect attacks the stem of cabbage, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts at the base. There are two methods of control:

(1) Apply one cupful of the following solution around plant at time of planting and again a week later: 1 gill of crude carbolic acid; 4 oz. of soft soap; 1 quart of water. Dissolve soap in water and add carbolic acid. Dilute with six gallons of water.

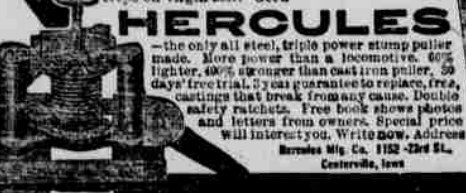
(2) Tar-paper disk method. Take a piece of tar-paper about three inches square. On this square make a cut from the side to the centre; at right angles to this cut make a second one to extend about one-quarter inch on each side of the first and across the centre. As soon as the plant is set, fit this disk around the base of it.

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