

ROOT CROPS FOR HOME USE

Some Practical Garden Suggestions.

By CHARLES H. CHESLEY

Most of us, when we think of the garden, think of such crops as beets, carrots, turnips, parsnips and onions. It is true that these vegetables, which grow underground, form the main bulk of our garden truck. They are the most important, perhaps, because they can be stored and kept for long periods after the actual growing season. In this article we will consider the most practical methods of growing root crops. All of these products are very hardy and most of them can be grown successfully as far north as anything of an edible nature.

In the first place, we will consider the kind of soil most suited to their needs. Those kinds which have long roots need deep and mellow loam. For this reason the hard clay is not best, neither is the soil that is largely sand. The sandy loam, then, may be said to be best for all kinds of root crops. Thorough preparation is of considerable importance. The land should be plowed or spaded deeply. All grass roots and weeds should be removed for best results. However, in field culture this is scarcely possible. We may say, therefore, that preparation consists of plowing and discing deeply, and continuing the work until the ground is mellow and easy to work. A drill seeding machine is desirable for planting small seeds, as most of the root crops have fine seed. In early planting the covering should be light, but it is important that the soil be firmly pressed about the seed. Sugar beets, mangels, turnips and carrots for stock feeding, and the various roots grown for human consumption all come under the same head and are grown practically in the same manner.

These vegetables which have long top roots need soil of considerable depth. We may mention carrots, parsnips, long-growing varieties of beets, and turnips, salsify, turnip-rooted parsley and French endive. The last named is a salad plant and the roots are grown from which to sprout leaves for salad use during the winter. The carrot is a particularly delicious vegetable and a favorite with the ladies, as it is supposed to be of value in keeping the complexion clear and soft. Horse breeders have long known that carrots fed to the animals tend to keep the coats smooth and glossy. Here are two good reasons why we should grow carrots, then.

The parsnip should be planted as early as the ground is in fair condition for working. It requires a deep soil and the entire season for growing to perfection. In the same catalog we may place the Hamburg or turnip-rooted parsley. This vegetable is not as well known as it deserves to be. It grows much like a parsnip, and the roots can scarcely be distinguished from it, after being dug and the tops removed. It is grown to a considerable extent in America, although not commonly seen in the markets. The cooked vegetable has a rather pleasant, sweet taste, and its principal use is as a flavoring for soups and stews. One pocket of seed will grow all a large family will need, as the seeds are small. Like the other varieties of parsley, the seed are slow in germinating. Better put in a few radish seeds to mark the rows, so cultivation may be started before the weeds get a foothold. French endive is grown in the same manner as parsnips.

The various varieties of beets form an important garden crop. We may plant the seeds very early in the spring and use the small roots early in summer. One desirable thing about beet greens is the fact that they never grow tough. Even when the stems get large and the roots of considerable size, the top cooks tender and is palatable. Swiss chard is a kind of beet which does not form a root, but the leaves may be used for greens all summer. New leaves grow from the heart as rapidly as the old ones are removed. For the first beets, plant a small-topped variety, like Eclipse, while for the main crop and for canning, the well-known Detroit Dark Red is the best. Varieties for winter use have long roots.

These are of harder texture and keep better in storage than the lighter-colored and softer sorts. The turnip is a hardy vegetable and requires but a short season for development. It is a good plan to sow a few seeds early in the spring for early use. Onions need to be planted early in the spring. The easiest way to get a crop is by using sets. These are small onions grown the previous season and developed this year to edible size. If seed is planted, put it in the ground very early and firm the soil around it.

How to Feed Pigeons.

Pigeons feed on a wide variety of grains, but the best cereals for them are peas, wheat, barley and buckwheat. In a bulletin of the Dominion Department of Agriculture on Pigeon raising, detailed instructions for feeding pigeons are given. The grain should be fed mixed, with peas forming from 25 to 50 per cent. of the mixture, as no pigeon ration is complete without them. Green, or new, unseasoned grain should not be used. Completely mature wheat is one of the best grains for pigeons, and barley in limited quantities is a good summer feed. Clipped oats, or better still, groats, are recommended during the laying season. All grains should be fed in hoppers which may be kept constantly before the birds. The bulletin, which will be found very useful by any person going in for squab-raising, may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.



Hen number 6, who has been laying down a world's record in British Columbia of 351 eggs in 365 days. She was bred at the University of British Columbia and is a testimony to the fertility of the province.

Garden Furniture.

Outdoor furniture is now considered quite as essential as indoor furniture. We have rainproof chairs and tables specially designed for outdoor use. And they are left outdoors from early spring to late autumn. Painted iron furniture is undoubtedly the most popular, because it is not merely weatherproof, but can be beautifully decorative as well. It has the added charm of color. Although sturdily built, these metal garden sets are delicately proportioned, with graceful lines and curves. They are an investment in both permanence and beauty. When well painted, they withstand all kinds of weather. The average iron garden set consists of a round table and four straight chairs.

Pole wood cut from forest or pasture makes good fuel, but some slab wood is needed to go with it. Small wood alone may prove to be a source of vexation and delay to the busy housewife.

Sunday School Lesson

April 24, Peter at the Transfiguration, Mark 9: 2-10; 2 Peter 1: 16-18. Golden Text—A voice came from the cloud, saying, This is my Beloved Son; hear him.—Mark 9: 7.

ANALYSIS.

I. PETER HAS A DIVINE VISION OF CHRIST IN HIS GLORY, Mark 9: 2-8. II. LATER REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPORT OF THE VISION, Mark 9: 9, 10; 2 Peter 1: 16-18.

INTRODUCTION.—Peter showed a remarkable gift of "second-sight" or spiritual intuition when he confessed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah. There was no outward resemblance between Jesus and the traditional idea of the deliverer of Israel; and if Peter had gone no further than the sight of his eyes, he would not have divined the secret of Jesus. But Peter had the inner vision which could discern the things of the spirit. He felt, and was thrilled by qualities in Jesus which went deeper than reason and which appeared to that same instinct which he felt and knew God. And by the voice of his great confession, nevertheless, as we saw in last lesson, Peter had still to be convinced of the necessity of the Cross. In the days following the confession, Jesus sought to instill this truth into the minds of his disciples, Mark 8: 34-38.

A week after Peter's notable confession occurred the divine illumination of his mind which we call the Vision of Christ Transfigured. Peter and two of his fellow-disciples saw in vision the divine glory of their Master, and heard a voice, apprehended as the voice of God, confirming their faith that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and commanding them to take to heart his teaching about the Cross. This experience, with what led up to it and what followed from it, forms our lesson for to-day.

I. PETER HAS A DIVINE VISION OF CHRIST IN HIS GLORY, Mark 9: 2-8. V. 2. It is unusual to find an event in the gospels so closely dated as the Transfiguration. It is stated to have taken place "after six days," that is, six days after Peter's confession, which would seem to indicate how deeply the events of that momentous week had entered into the disciples' minds. And, indeed, they might well do so, for during these days Jesus was incessantly teaching them out of his own heart and from scripture the necessity that he must suffer and die at Jerusalem. This was not welcome teaching to Peter and to the others; hence they remembered it the better. And this teaching, so hard to receive, became in turn the foundation of the heavenly vision which came to them on the sixth day.

Vs. 3, 4. If we remember that all through this week Jesus had been speaking about his death, and of the passages in the Law and in the Prophets which foretold its necessity, we will understand better the nature of the disciples' vision. First, they saw Jesus himself "transfigured," that is, revealed in his super-human greatness. He is no longer despised and rejected, but clothed with celestial glory. Secondly, they saw in vision Moses and Elijah, the representatives respectively of the Law and the Prophets, speaking with Jesus. This embodies in vision-form the fact of the testimony which scripture in all its parts makes to the coming Messiah. Jesus had spoken much in the last few days of that testimony of Moses and the prophets, and now the disciples see it all clearly.

Vs. 5, 6. Peter, like a man in a dream, blurts out some foolish words about making "booths" or tents for Jesus and his glorified companions to stay in. He feels a religious ecstasy and wishes it to continue. His soul, however, is too overwrought for sensible speech.

V. 7. Now comes the climax. The disciples are conscious of a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son; hear him." This means that they are now divinely convinced of Jesus' Messiahship. The words "hear him" contain the suggestion that what Jesus has said about his death corresponds with the will of God.

II. LATER REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPORT OF THE VISION, Mark 9: 9, 10; 2 Peter 1: 16-18.

V. 9. The vision passes, but coming down from the mountain, Jesus again speaks serious words about his death, of which the import is as follows. His Messiahship is a mystery, which cannot be fully understood or disclosed until Jesus has laid down his life and risen to the life immortal. Then at last his disciples will realize what

has only come to them by glimpses on the Mount.

V. 10. But this thought of Jesus' death still perplexes the disciples' minds. Even yet they cannot understand a Messiahship which is meant of this world.

2 Peter 1: 16. This passage is meant to show how clearly Peter understood at a later time the mystery which had once perplexed him. The apostle tells his readers that his gospel of "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" does not rest on imagination, but on spiritually experienced reality. The gospel is not a cunningly invented set of fables, but rests on truths disclosed to the eyes of Jesus' followers both during his earthly life and after the resurrection. Notice what forms the core of Peter's gospel: "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Christ is Lord of all, and his coming victory is assured.

Vs. 17, 18. The apostle recalls the transfiguration experience, mentioning especially the voice from heaven. It was a foretaste or anticipation of that heavenly glory in which the church now sees its risen Lord enthroned. As such it constituted a very blessed experience, and a very strong and convincing ground of faith.

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The pussywills are unrestrained by the dogwood's bark.

HOW TO HAVE A FLOWER GARDEN BUSY WOMAN PLANS WITH CARE

By ALICE STANTON

It is quite possible that every woman who sees this article may say, "A busy woman surely I am." I do not mean the woman who is busy about nothing, still less the lady who breakfasts in bed and spends the rest of the day rushing about in a frenzied attempt to catch up with her social calendar.

I have in mind the woman who cooks the meals and washes the babies, the woman whose leisure is a precious thing, and who wishes earnestly to make it worth while, and yet must not take on anything wearisome. The kind of exercise which the fostering of flowers may give her is just the sort to be a relaxation from exacting application indoors. If one has hours of work and minutes to play, it would seem wise at least for the first year, to choose something which will grow easily, bloom for a long period of time, and not require a constant cutting of blossoms or an unusual amount of water. Also, for the sake of that variety which is part of beauty, a plant which may be had in a variety of colors.

As to cutting, I do not mean that the blooms may not be cut, indeed, everything which grows is the better for it—but I do mean that there are certain things, such as pansies and poppies, which it is imperative to cut daily, else bloom will cease altogether. It is well to remember that, although this is a delightful task, it is exacting when time is to be considered.

BUY THE PLANTS.

Perhaps the petunia fills all these specifications particularly well. It has only one limitation for our purpose: it is slow in getting under way and, if grown from seed, will leave the garden blossoming for the early months.

My advice is to buy the plants, thus assuring early bloom. Set them about a foot apart; they will soon grow to a solid mass of foliage and bloom which is a delight to see.

A flower in a stronger note which fulfills the same requirements is the nasturtium. It is easy to raise from the seed and, if these are bought by named varieties or by color, really exquisite shades may be yours. They should be set rather closer than petunias, because the plants do not grow so large.

Zinnia is another gay thing which of late years has been greatly improved as to color. It does not bloom as freely as petunia or nasturtium, but is very hardy. It is better, although this is not absolutely necessary, if the blooms are cut, as each individual flower lasts a long time, cutting once a week is sufficient.

If you have a bit more time, you may choose subjects which, although hardy, must have the blooms removed in order to insure flowers throughout the season. A lovely combination is the deep blue bachelor's-button and lemon calendula. Bachelor's-button is exacting as to cutting; it throws a mass of flowers and simply must not be permitted to go to seed, else the plants will feel that life's purpose is finished, and die.

GOOD COMBINATIONS.

The ageratum and the impudent little dwarf marigold are pretty together. Ageratum is lovely with almost any flower in the garden. When it is grown among California poppies, the effect is beyond power of pen to describe.

No matter what else you choose, do not neglect to scatter a few seeds of nicotiana about for the sake of its fragrance. The flower does not open in the daytime, in fact, hangs its head as if rather bored with life. Once the sun has gone, its starry white blossoms appear and its gift of enchanting perfume fills the garden with delight.

When you develop the enthusiasm for gardening, which is one of the most satisfying of hobbies, you will probably find time to grow anything you want. Certainly you will get perennials and make a planting which will give variety from frost to frost.

After your plants are set or your seeds are up, there are only two tasks

which must not be neglected. Weeds must be kept down, for they are greedy feeders which take from the food provided for your plants and will eventually choke them. Also, if the season is dry, water must be given occasionally—not every day, which is actually bad for plants—merely when the ground has become dry. When watering, do it thoroughly, and give enough to reach at least two inches down. Water after sunset, and the following day loosen the ground on the surface.

Strawberry Fertilization.

Final results of experiments conducted by the Horticultural Division of the Dominion Experimental Farm in strawberry fertilization are given in the report for 1925 of the Dominion Horticulturist, which can now be had free on application to the Publications Branch, Ottawa. The results consist of the effect of nitrogenous fertilizer applications made at different times during the life of the plantation. The plots experimented with consisted of three fifteen-foot rows on soil of high fertility. Each treatment or series, of which there were seven, was replicated three times, so that the yields recorded are from four widely separated plots of the same treatment. The series included: not nitrated, nitrated at planting, nitrated one month after planting, nitrated August 15, nitrated September 15 only, nitrated September 15 and before bloom, nitrated September 15 and in full bloom.

The highest yielding series was the one receiving nitrate on September 15 and again just before bloom in the spring. There was, however, the report indicates, a noticeable increase due to the September application and an increase in all the nitrated series, which became progressively more marked as the application approached the fruit bud-forming period. It is added that the early spring application, even on soil of high fertility, has a tendency to cause increase in size of fruit, which accounts for the slightly greater yield shown in the tabular statement of the report in the series September 15 and before bloom.

Summarizing results as reported in 1924 and 1925, the Dominion Horticulturist says in brief that nitrate of soda and other soluble salts applied at planting may have an injurious effect; on land in a fairly high state of fertility nitrate of soda may not cause any marked improvement even when applied two months after planting; on poor soils when the foliage shows a pale color nitrate of soda applied not earlier than one month after planting may cause a marked increase in early stolon formation, which will result in increased yields the following year; applications of nitrate of soda, even on land where nitrogen is not a limiting factor, from a vegetable response standpoint, causes a marked increase in yield the following year; when manure is used better results have been obtained by applying in large quantities the year previous to some hoed crop, or when applied at planting time by plowing in rather deeply.

Leisure Essential to Housewife.

A certain leisure of the home-maker for rest and growth is a vitally necessary thing. The only way for our home-maker to get her deserved leisure is to arrange to make room for it on her daily program and to plan her days and deeds so as to spare this time of recuperation. System is as necessary in running a house as in running a department store.

A large section of Labrador is now found land for Newfoundland.

Luckily the Ash Man Hadn't Made His Daily Call.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.



WHAT OF THE YEARS BEYOND?

There is something about the melowness of spring days that profoundly recalls our own "childhood" days. Perhaps it was the promise of the barefoot hours ahead, or the coming of the dandelions and green verdure that made our childhood hearts so fluttery and our feet so tinglingly impatient.

At school, we pondered over our books half-heartedly—waiting! waiting! We must have been peculiar specimens of spring fever as we chewed on our penny codor lead pencils, glanced at the cooing sun—and meanwhile studied "jography."

We felt toward geography as the little girl did about the cow. She didn't like milk; she didn't like butter; she didn't even like cottage cheese—so she felt the cow could "go to grass" as far as she was concerned.

To-day, perhaps, most of us have children of our own. We are learning more and more each day about the eccentricities of childhood. So it is, and so it should be. We are learning indeed, that: "It takes a heap of livin' in a house to make it home."

When parents are rearing their children, if they could catch a vision of their compensating years, the ones beyond, they would shoulder their responsibilities more sturdily and happily. They would have greater strength for the increasing burdens, more incentive to "carry on."

There will be perplexing moments when company comes and one of them will be sure to say: "Why can't we have this sometimes when company isn't here?" There will be the ardent "reach-aches" which start at 7.30 and abate shortly after the other children have gone to school. There will be dozens of "Oh Gee!" "Good Garsh!" Last, but not least, there will be someone to always relate the unexpected.

All of these are just childhood eccentricities, just plain phases. They will come and go; you will learn to despise and love them. Invariably, they will right themselves—but in the meantime, be patient and tactful.

Those are your hardest years. It will seem at times that your children step on your feet and on your heart. But you must remember that you and their father are not the only ones watching the children. God is still in the Heaven, you know. But He cannot help you unless you are willing to help yourself. Keep cool—be firm—and do not lose your balance.

When things look unusually cloudy, think of John Wesley's mother with nineteen children. When asked to give a rule for raising children she explained that she had used nineteen different rules. No two children were alike; hence, each one required a new set of tactics.

After all, your youngsters are probably just normal, lively, nice, naughty youngsters and you are making Himalayas out of mole hills. Remember, you have always before you the compensating years, the ones beyond—to-day plus a few to-morrows away.

Easter.

As the centuries pass and the world ages, whatever promises a renewal of youth, and the coming of new life to old institutions, settled customs, and nations restless and weary, takes on a fresh importance in men's eyes. The outward aspect of the celebration of Easter, with flowers and music, rich gifts and gay apparel, is forever less than the deep-hid intimations, which no words intoned and chanted are able to convey. The first of altars is set up in every human heart; and the resurrection is that of the individual life of every Easter-tide communicant. Pagans made their high festival of Easter before the churches hallowed and beautified the observation. Even primitive mankind, dimly groping toward a far-off, invisible presence felt but not realized, was stirred by the coming of the spring to a reverence for a nameless spirit, and to a renewal of an aspiration inextinguishable in man's heart till life is ended.

This day of rejoicing in the victory of life over death, of the triumphant spirit over the captivity of the tomb, falls short of its immortal purpose if it begins and ends in a material evidence of human delight in mere natural aspects. It is appropriate that we should welcome the close of the forty days of penitence and fasting, that we should be eager to doff the sackcloth and don apparel that offers a picture of buoyancy and good cheer.

But the effect of Easter should not pass when the lights are put out and the cantatas tremble into silence, when the lilies fade and the greetings and the gifts exchanged are things of yesterday. We are to life everlasting and a light upon our way that is not ephemeral like the altar-candles. Thus the miracle of resurrection shall be not simply the recounted story of two thousand years ago but a present and a vital fact for each of us to-day and a source of strength to face the morrows.

To control weeds, the first rule is: Plant clean seed. Often that is the only rule necessary. If you are using home-grown small grain, run it through a fanning-mill to clean out chaff and weed seeds. 'Twill pay.