

Vegetable Patches Aren't 'Snoozing'

By MARGUERITE SMITH
IS YOUR backyard vegetable garden doing its bit in the battle of the budget that is popularly supposed to make a happier holiday season?

Most gardens go into a nice lazy snooze with the first October frost but not if they belong to clever managers.

Take the tiny vegetable patch in the James Glass backyard at 719 E. Southern Ave. It's producing plenty.

Mrs. Glass is still cutting lettuce she planted when the first fall rains came. "It's black-seeded Simpson. It grows fast, stands the cold and we like its good sweet taste."

Kale, beets, carrots and a variety of onions—including garlic—are all just waiting to be gathered as needed. Part of the onions, Bermudas, Mrs. Glass started from plants set in the spring. "I didn't get around to digging them in the summer. Now they're coming up—three and four green onions from each plant."

To stretch the fresh vegetable season in spring as well as fall, Mr. Glass is giving their south basement window cold-frame a new cement jacket.

As soon as he's finished, he'll take out the usual foot or so of used soil, put about six inches of chicken manure in it with another six inches of garden soil on top of the manure. In spring it's ready for tomato, pepper and cabbage seeds. Heat from the furnace plus heat from the sun hustles the plants along.

Celery, Carrots Taken From Other Gardens

Other winter gardeners concentrate on their favorite vegetables. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hart, 2447 S. Delaware St., say "We've been using giant pascal celery out of the garden, and carrots. These we stored in the cold-frame."

Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Brown, 5145 N. Michigan Rd., "We're using broccoli and Chinese cabbage out of our garden, carrots, too, and cabbage."

Mrs. Mary Gerbeck, 753 N. Holmes Ave., "I've got endive, both broad leaved (escarole) and curly endive. I like the broad leaved better—it's easier to clean and stands the cold better. I've got hardy onions to use, too."

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Dickerson, 818 N. Arlington Ave., "We had radishes out of the garden this week—not the winter variety, just the regular spring radishes. We planted both kinds, red and white, in the fall. We get parsnips out of the garden all winter. And we're still pulling carrots and beets."

The Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Woltjen, 3131 Guilford Ave., list "cabbage, broccoli, turnips, curly endive, chard and parsnips."



Mrs. James Glass
... picks lettuce in November

ley" from their early winter garden.

Add to these hardy plants others equally cold resistant such as rutabagas, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, leeks, salsify and chives for seasoning. There you have an impressive list of budget savers and tasty eating at a time when the average garden is dead. They're time-savers, too, for there's no canning, storing or processing involved.

Rosebush Mystery Unraveled by Grower

Mystery of the unexpected rose bush—"A couple of years ago," says a local gardener, "I was hilling up my roses in the early winter and, as usual, I trimmed some of the longest stalks back a bit so they wouldn't whip in the wind. I usually burn these. But the next spring when I uncovered my roses I found I had a new bush in a spot where there certainly had been none before. "After puzzling as to how on earth it got there, I decided I had dropped a few of the trimmings, they had somehow gotten covered up and one had taken root during the winter! Now I bury my rose trimmings when I prepare my bushes for cold weather."

This true story is a perfect example of the simplicity of many garden operations that, described in the specialist's jargon, scare off a beginning gardener. (I speak from experience.) For the business described above is, in essential fact, "the callousing and rooting of a hardwood cutting."

Men and Women—

Only Higher Animals Go Looting

By ERNEST E. BLAU

ON A MAINE TRAIL last summer a game warden encountered a bear walking on his hind legs, carrying loot he had taken from some camp. The bear ran, dropping a bag of flour, pound of tea, can of baking powder, roll of toilet tissue and a traveling bag containing women's undergarments, toothpaste, comb and lipstick.

Most animals, though, are honest, and people can leave their possessions anywhere in the woods, without worrying whether the foxes, bears and aardvarks will make off with them.

It's only when you get into the upper brackets of animal life that you find a creature that's a looter—ready to pounce on anything lying around unprotected. This greedy animal will take it just because it isn't nailed down. It's the creature that Plato defined as "a two-legged animal without feathers, and with broad, flat nails"—Man and Woman.

with a badly damaged stuffed alligator head from some ruins. It was so dilapidated the teeth were dropping out as he carried it.

As Havelock Ellis said, "The sun and the moon and the stars would have disappeared long ago, had they happened to be within the reach of predatory human hands."

Device Stores Heat

An electric room warmer has been developed which can store heat during daytime periods, when electric lines are not so loaded, and release it when needed during times of peak loads.

GARDENING CALENDAR—

REMEMBERS for late November...

Mulch rhubarb plants with leaves if you have no rotted manure. Leaves decaying supply some nitrogen—booster of a good rhubarb crop next year.

Inspect your perennials after a heavy rain. If water stands around any of them, provide a drainage ditch right away. Otherwise you'll have a "winter" killed plant by spring.

It's too early to cover most plants for winter protection. Only such tender ones as French hydrangeas, crepe myrtle and others that are out of their normal climate need winter coats put on early.

Most winter covering is done simply to prevent heaving of roots in our normal alternating freezing and thawing spells. Such covering goes on only after the ground has frozen hard.

Straw is better than leaves around such plants as chrysanthemums which may rot if they're water soaked all winter. It does not mat down. It lets air through. Leaves are good to use where you want to hold moisture, as around evergreens.

Dishing the Dirt on Gardening—

Q—Any assistance on raising African violets will be greatly appreciated, writes Mrs. Will Marks, 2504 Brookside Pkwy., N. Drive.

A—From observing the widely varying methods of successful local growers, I'd say it makes no difference what exposure—North, South, East or West—you give your violets. Just don't let the sun burn their fat leaves. Water them from the bottom, always with warm water. This seems to be strictly a precautionary measure against rotting the crown of the plant. Pot them in a rich, loose soil mixture, using rotted cow manure if you can get it. Fertilize them frequently with very weak fertilizer solution, preferably of cow manure.

Q—What can you suggest about fall preparation of soil, is a question asked by several gardeners.

A—If you have heavy clay soil, slow drying after spring rains, the most important point is to trench and raise a plot of it as you upade. Use leaves and garden rubble in a four- to six-inch layer under each layer of top soil. Lime chopped into a hardpan layer of subsoil will help to break that up and give you better drainage. Raising the level and improving the drainage will give you a sur-

prising jump on spring planting. Chemical fertilizer, especially a high phosphorus and potash combination mixed with the rubble helps it to decay and adds plant nutrients that are often lacking.

Q—Can you suggest some kind of easy-to-raise vine I could use in one of these white cages to hang in my window, asks a beginner.

A—Nothing is easier than a sweet potato vine. You can grow a luxuriant vine in water. If it gets leggy, just pinch the growing tips to make it branch.

Q—Would you suggest fall or spring resetting of phlox, asks a Greenwood gardener.

A—Even though we're getting close to winter, I'm still working at fall transplanting of various perennials. Most of us have too much to do in spring so it pays to spread out our chores to fall.

Many soils hereabouts are so heavy they scarcely dry out enough to work before middle or late May. Plants set then have almost no time to heal wounded roots and begin growth before they're hit by our early summer heat.

Two points to watch in fall planting—don't leave ground hollowed out around plant as will happen with too vigorous firming of too little soil, and

do mulch around growing crowns so ground stays unfrozen for a time.

If you have a question on gardening, send it to Marguerite Smith, The Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis 9. Or if you can give additional information from your own gardening experience, let's have that, too.

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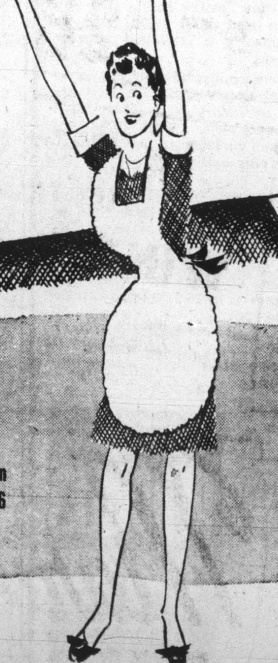
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