

orchards doing better than this for in the case of my own orchard it should be understood that in it I have tried out several varieties that were unprofitable. I also made some mistakes of planting and management that are now being avoided by later planters. It is a pleasure to know that many younger men are now engaged in a broader and stronger development of this splendid industry.

---

## NOTES ON GARDENING.

BLANCHARD HARPER.

### *A Protecting Screen.*

The idea is not original, none of mine are, merely adaptive, or adopting—I can not remember where I read it originally, but as I use it, it is as follows:

Get a number of heavy pieces of galvanized iron wire, Nos. 10 or 12, I think, cut into four feet lengths, then procure a number of yards of "tobacco" (i. e., that used to screen tobacco plants) cheese cloth, in which tucks half an inch deep are run, at intervals of seven and a half feet. Run a wire through each tuck so that six inches projects beyond the cloth on each side to be stuck in the ground. In case of a high wind it is advisable to pin the windward side to the ground between the hoops. I use mine as a protection against spring and autumn frosts, summer sun, and when watering a favorite row during a drouth. It enables me to lengthen the season of tender vegetables about six weeks every year. In the autumn, when the snow flies, I have the cheese cloth washed and use it year after year, and have done so for three years. I have also light frames fitting in place of my cold frame sash covered with cheese cloth, instead of being filled with glass, which I use to start young seedling in hot summer weather. It is a great protection also against a burning summer wind, or a beating rain. I always remove it at night in hot weather and replace it in the morning as long as needed, and in cold weather, put it on at night and take it off when the sun shines. It is particularly useful in transplanting young lettuce, asters, endive, celery, etc. Try it!

*Lettuce.*

Many home gardeners do not appreciate the vast difference in the many varieties of lettuce offered in the catalogues, and very few realize that there is a greater difference in the success in growing lettuce due to the selection of a variety suited to the soil of the garden. Lettuce likes a light, mellow soil, but suppose the home garden is composed of a hard, yellow clay soil, or a peaty, marshy soil, shall the gardener forego lettuce? By no means, but in order to win success, he must try many different varieties and then select the ones which do best in his soil. A marked instance of this suitability came to my notice last year. A new neighbor who had recently come from Michigan, where his garden had been on a reclaimed marsh, asked "What lettuce grew best in our location?" He named over a number of varieties, Big Boston and others, to all of which I objected as having been failures with me, being tough and bitter. Then I named the varieties I had found suited to the soil and location. "Well" he said, "I am going to try both your kinds and mine. My varieties did so well with us, I hate to give them up, but I will take your advice and plant your selection too." He did so, and could not eat any of the varieties he found successful in Michigan, but found my choice gave him a succession of delicious lettuce until frozen up. Do not be discouraged if your home grown lettuce is poor, send to the Supt. of Public Documents in Washington, fifteen cents, and ask for Bulletin No. 69, Bureau of Plant Industry, Dept. of Agriculture, American Varieties of Lettuce by W. W. Tracy, Jr., and from a study of that select varieties to experiment with your soil.

I unfortunately kept no notes of my first trials, and so do not care after five years to make definite statements in regard to them. I have tried in all about twenty to twenty-five varieties, and for my soil, which is a hard clay, on an exposed hillside, swept by the prevailing west winds, without any pumping or mechanical arrangements for watering, I have found great satisfaction in the following varieties: First choice—May King, Black-seeded Tennis Ball, Crisp as Ice (also called Hartford Bronzed Head) Paris White Cos. Mignonette. Third choice—California Cream Butter, Deacon, Maximum—Hanson. Poor—Grand Rapids, New York, Golden Cos, Big Boston, Iceberg.

I make my first planting in a cold frame, from which I transplant a few heads to the open ground, and eat the remainder thinning it as it grows. I like May King and Black-seeded Tennis Ball for this. Then as early as possible, I plant in the open, five foot rows of May King, Black-seeded Tennis Ball, Mignonette and Crisp as Ice (listed by only one seedsman, that I know of) and any new varieties with which I am experimenting. When these are large enough to transplant, I set out as many as I want in rows one foot apart, and eight inches or a foot in the row, to head. Meanwhile I have been thinning the rows as required and eating what I thinned out. In about two or three weeks I make another planting including Paris White Cos, and my last about August 1. In the last planting I make my rows three times as long and thin in the row for heading as well as transplant because I find that transplanting at that time of the year sets the plants back enough to make a much later crop. By covering these transplanted heads, with the cheese cloth screen, or lifting a few to the cold frame, I have had lettuce until the middle of November.

The soil is prepared with manure as usual before ploughing and dragging, and then fined all the old powdery manure raked up from where the big pile stood. that I can rake or work in, I put in. When my seedlings are up, I water the ground once a week or ten days, with a solution of one ounce of nitrate of soda in one gallon of water, and continue to do so until the heads are well formed. When the seed is sowed and watered I cover the ground in hot sunny or dry weather with the cheese cloth screen, and the August planting is grown almost entirely with it until September brings cooler days. Please let me know the result of your experiments?