

THE FARM GARDEN.

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VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

Peas.—It is important for the grower for home use to make a wise selection of varieties. In this respect the properties desired are different to those sought by the grower for market. The latter grows large breadths, and ease of gathering is a very important item. For this reason he uses varieties that ripen almost simultaneously—that is to say, the entire crop is fit for pulling in one or two operations. The gatherer is thus saved the time that would be involved in selecting pods if the crop matured by degrees. The necessity for quick gathering is proved by the number of half-filled pods frequently found in market lots, the result partly of the necessity for quick work, and partly of inexperienced gatherers not being able to detect the filled pods quickly enough. In the home garden, however, quickness in gathering is of less importance, and, an almost daily supply being required, it is necessary to select for growing varieties that mature by degrees. But there are also considerations of quality, and what one may term sentimentality. Something very handsome either in the garden or on the table may give satisfaction to the grower or user, though falling short of others in quantity produced. Others, again, may only consider utility, with a fair standard of quality. The following observations may be of value for future guidance. There are three varieties that may be termed “second earlies” now on the market—viz., English Wonder, Daybreak, and Carter’s Springtide. There is very little difference between these, the balance being in favour of Springtide, the joints being closer together and the peas slightly larger. They come at the same time if sown together, and last as long, the weight produced being rather in favour of Springtide. This pea, sown on the 2nd August, came into use on the 30th November, and gave a good supply till the 4th January, or about five weeks. Sherwood, sown on the 2nd August, was first gathered on the 14th December, and lasted till the 4th January, or three weeks. Sutton’s Dwarf Defiance, sown on the 23rd August, was first gathered on the 23rd December, and lasted on till the 4th, or less than two weeks. This is a very fine table variety. These notes surely prove that for utility Springtide is most valuable. The flavour is very good, though not of the highest grade. It is well known that early crops of peas are the best, but the later behaviour of a variety may be