

be a good supply of turned plugs. Bungs are only used when casks are closed up for sending out. When the wine is ready for closing up and the plugs put in they should be sealed up with paraffin-wax. All bungs and plugs should be well washed or scalded before being used. Keep the fermenting-house and its surroundings perfectly clean. If the grape-skins and stems (generally called the marc) are not to be used for distillation they should be taken right away at once for manure, as they soon become sour and breed the vinegar-fly.

THE GARDEN.

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VEGETABLE-CULTURE ON THE FARM.

THE present is a good time to break up new ground, the soil being moist and easily worked. It is a common plan among small farmers to cultivate their vegetables in the field with the farm crops. This limits the cultivation of vegetables to the suitability of the soil to produce them. In many places vegetable-culture is only undertaken in the summer-time, the soil being too wet for earlier use. This is undesirable, as such places are bare of vegetables at the most important time—early spring, when the human system craves for fresh green food. It would be far better to fence off a quarter of an acre near the home-stead, trench it two spits deep, or more if possible, and drain it if necessary. A hedge of an ornamental description planted inside the fence would keep out cold winds, and besides making the garden attractive would assist the growth of early vegetables.

On every farm there is manure from the horses and cattle which could be used in the garden, and this would keep the soil in good condition, practically for ever. Such manure is usually used for field-crops, where it is not really wanted, for fields are not continuously cropped, but after two or three years are laid down in grass, and when again broken up the turf supplies the humus that is required, while artificial manures suitable for the crops to be grown supply what else is wanted.

A garden of the size mentioned would give room for growing sufficient vegetables for a fair-sized family, as well as small fruits such as gooseberries, currants, raspberries, and strawberries, and a row of loganberries, for which latter a trellis might be erected along a path.

Trenching two spits deep is termed double-digging, or bastard trenching. The way to work is as follows: Mark out a strip 30 in. wide; then dig out the top spit, throwing it in a heap clear of the ground to be worked; the loose crumbs should also be shovelled out. Next dig up the bottom of the trench so formed, as deeply as possible, the soil not being removed but simply broken up. Work in a liberal amount of farmyard manure. Then mark out another strip the same width as the first, and dig the top spit and the loose crumbs into the first trench; next break up the bottom as before, and proceed in the same manner until the strip is finished. The soil thrown from the first trench is used to fill the last one. By this method the top soil is left