

# Choosing Land for a Market Garden

— By —

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**A**LTHOUGH success in market gardening depends largely on the individual, one of the most essential factors is the land itself. Those who are considering acquiring land for this purpose should therefore make the fullest investigation of the possible advantages and disadvantages of the land and the site before committing themselves to the venture.

## Topography

The "lay of the land" of any prospective site when the selection of

land for a market garden is being made is important. Steep grades should be avoided, as the drainage on the ridges of this type of ground is too quick and permits the soil to dry out very rapidly. With constant cultivation such as is practised in market gardening, erosion is almost bound to occur, with a result that the top soil will eventually find its way to the gullies. This will take place more quickly than the land, even under the best practices, can be improved. Further, agricultural machinery is difficult to operate to best advantage on steep

grades, and production costs will therefore invariably be higher than on flat or gently sloping land.

Gentle slopes with a northerly or north-easterly aspect in some locations are very favourable, as they induce air currents which may be some protection against frost. Because of the natural drainage usually present in such situations, the land will warm more quickly in spring, which would be an advantage in producing early crops for market. Level land, however, is generally chosen for the production of market garden crops, as it is more easily and more economically worked, and can, in many ways, be utilised to better advantage.

## Soils

Soils which are used for general agricultural purposes will, with the necessary treatment, produce good crops of most vegetables, but better soils will invariably give better results and over a longer period. Whatever the type of soil that is chosen, however, the drainage must be good.

Sandy soils have some advantages in crop production. They drain more quickly, and warm earlier in spring; sowing and planting can be started

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