

For the Boy and Girl
Gardeners of California

The Junior A

Get In and Dig!

Tuesday is the day on which the San Leandro gardeners take up their tools and go back to the soil. Last Tuesday some 40 boys and girls might have been seen busily weeding, planting and hoeing. Everywhere enthusiasm reigned supreme. While the gardens are still fairly young, the tiny leaves are at last beginning to poke their dainty green heads out in the sunlight, and their debut is naturally made the occasion for a joyful celebration.

The San Leandro gardens were organized for the new year about September 1. The preliminary steps naturally took some little time. There was the task of preparing the ground properly, so that it might be in condition to receive the wee seeds which were to be entrusted to its care. The soil must be hoed and spaded, all rocks must be removed and its proper irrigation must be attended to.

In time the seeds were planted, and then came the hardest task of all, waiting for them to sprout. Patience is a virtue, and truly needs to be cultivated, and the boys and girls out at San Leandro found the suspense mighty hard to put up with. However, everything comes to him who waits long enough, and so one day some one discovered a tiny green shoot nodding and blinking in the morning sun. The news spread quickly, and from then on the success of the gardens was assured. Never was a baby tended more assiduously than those same tiny green plants.

The San Leandro school is a new one, and one of the most beautiful public school buildings in this part of the country. It is thoroughly equipped with every modern school convenience, and the building itself is fine and large. The rooms are big and airy, and the general happy atmosphere seems to radiate from the children's faces. The gardens have been planted along the side of the building, and in time it is planned to devote much of the gardeners' energies toward beautifying the grounds. Even now sweet peas have been planted along the east fence, and already a brave array of small green leaves are lined up in front of the pickets. Later a lawn will be put in in front of the school and a background of red geraniums will be planted against the house. It is also planned to grow some kind of ivy along the side fence, and this will probably be put in in the early spring. The green, velvety lawn, reaching back to the brilliant flowers against the buff school building, will make one of the prettiest floral sights in the already beautiful town.

The garden club of the San Leandro school includes only one class of pupils, that class being the lower fourth. They have taken up the agriculture work this semester with a firm determination to set an even higher mark of advancement on the garden culture than that attained by the class last year, and, from their efforts so far, seem well on the road to a realization of their hopes. The space ruled off for the use of the gardeners measures about 25x300 feet, and is laid off in the usual individual plots. In these small gardens have been planted lettuce, radishes and peas. The children have one hour a week, taken from their usual school routine, in which to pursue their garden activities, but from the appearance of the plots, it is safe to say that many a gardener stays late after school and gets up early in the morning to further his fascinating industry.

The San Leandro gardeners till the soil under the able direction of Mr. Walton, a student in the agriculture department of the University of California, who, in turn, is assisted by Miss G. M. Stewart, one of the teachers in the school. The garden club officers have been elected as follows: Paul Michael, president; August Thierry, vice president; Lucy Martin, secretary; Louis Bacon, treasurer.

Now, how many of you are going to come into the garden movement this week? You may not know it, but there is a place waiting there for you. It's up to you to fill the vacant space. We want every Junior boy and girl to enlist in the great army. Join the ranks today. Don't spend all of your spare time doing nothing worth while. Get in and dig!

The sweet pea contest is announced today. Are you going to be a prize winner?

EDITORIAL

Juniors, who is your best boy or girl friend? Think a moment. Have you decided? Now, why is he or she your best friend? Why do you like this friend the best? Among other things, isn't it because this friend is honest with you? Because you can always depend upon him or her? The people love and trust Mr. Roosevelt because he is honest. He does what he thinks is right. You love your parents for their kindness and justice to you. Think again with us of the man you like most, of the man you most respect. Would you be willing to have him, or any one else, think you dishonest for the sake of a radish? You may think that a strange question. Let me tell you of a gardener who thinks more of a radish than her honesty.

This gardener, with a sackful of vegetables which had been given her (we are sorry to say it was a girl), thinking that no one was near, pulled radishes from a garden which did not belong to her. She looked about guiltily. What a lowly thing a radish is to receive in return for dishonesty. We should have been glad to give her dozens of radishes rather than to have her prove dishonest. If you ever feel a desire to take something which you have not earned, and you feel that you can not live without it, ask the owner or the one in charge. Ten chances to one you will get it. Do not let any one feel that you would steal.

Some one is watching you always to see whether you are going to make a strong man or a weak one, a good woman or a weak one. Which are you going to be?



GIVING INSTRUCTIONS ON PLANT GROWTH.

JUNIOR GARDEN LESSON

CHAPTER IX

How to Grow the Sweet Pea

The sweet pea is the most beautiful and fragrant of flowers. It lends grace to every occasion. There is no flower which responds more readily to careful treatment. Your garden is not complete without sweet peas.

In growing this plant, as in growing all other plants, use all the information that you have gained and that you can obtain in plant culture.

Preparation of the Seed Bed—Select a plot which is partly shaded during the day and which has a background, such as a fence, shrubbery, a shed, etc. The plot should be oblong in shape, about two feet wide and as long as desired. Sunlight will have its best effect if the plot lies north and south.

In the fall work well rotted barnyard manure and bone meal deep in the soil. If you desire extra fine flowers, spade the bed at least two blade lengths in depth. This may be done as follows: (1) Dig a hole at one end of the plot the depth of one spade blade, and two feet long; (2) cart or carry this soil to the other end; (3) stir the subsoil thus uncovered another spade length; (4) throw the following two feet of surface soil on the subsoil which was spaded; (5) break up the newly exposed subsoil, cover with the following top soil and continue the process. Fill the hole at the end of the plot with the dirt which was first moved.

If you do not desire the best flowers, use the trench method of spading. Be sure to run the spade straight into the soil. Add a fertilizer as suggested above.

Sowing the Seed—Sweet peas like a soil which is not too light or too warm. The seeds do best if they are planted in November and December, although planting time may continue into May. If the rains have not softened the proposed seed bed, the ground must be

thoroughly sprinkled two or three days before working.

After making a careful selection of seeds from a seedman's catalogue, soak them after receiving 24 hours before sowing. Dig a trench about five inches deep and sow the seeds about one inch apart. Cover with one inch of dirt, pack the soil carefully and leave the rest of the trench open.

Care of the Young Plants—As the young plants come up, thin them to about one foot apart. The plants will not produce beautiful flowers if they are crowded. Add soil about the young plants gradually, until the trench is filled.

When the plants are large enough, furnish them with something to climb upon. This may be twigs stuck in the ground, a string frame, or a wire netting. The frame should be at least five feet high.

After each rain or irrigation with a hose, cultivate the soil with a hoe to the depth of two or three inches. Cultivate whenever a crust forms on the surface of the soil.

The plants, at a height of two or three feet need much water. It is much better to dig a trench close to the row and irrigate thoroughly twice a week than to sprinkle each evening. At this stage of growth, train any young plants to the netting that are out of position.

Care at the Blooming Period—The brilliancy and beauty of a flower depend upon healthy growth, due to proper food conditions and to excellent care. Soak a sack full of cow manure in a tub of water. Add a quart of this liquid to six gallons of water and apply close to the sweet pea row, but not on the vines, once or twice a week. Irrigate first with pure water. Pick the blossoms regularly. Do not let them go to seed. Long sprays of sweet peas in glass bowls make an attractive display.

To keep insects, such as the red spider, away from the vines, spray now and then with the hose held close. This

treatment will wash off visitors. If the red spider come too numerous, spray with oil soap or "back room" preparation.

By plucking off many buds before they open, they may be forced into the row, thus the plant may grow extra fine flowers.

Sweet Pea Culture in Pots—Sweet peas will do well in pots. Cure a few three inch seedlings nearly to the top with a little water. The following: one-third leaf soil, one-third loam, and one-third sand. Plant three seeds in each pot. Keep the soil moist, but not saturated. In the spring transplant into the garden.

Kind of Sweet Peas—Sweet peas into four classes: (1) climbing, (2) dwarf, (3) Spencer, (4) Spencer.

The early flowering sweet peas are ready at Thanksgiving.

Dwarf sweet peas grow in a few inches high and spread over a large area. Rows planted will become one mass of color and brilliant colors. They are an excellent border.

The grandiflora is the pea which is so well known of this class are quite good. Gardeners who know prefer sweet peas because of their size and beautiful colors, the long sprays, and the long period.

"Sweet Pea Culture" is a booklet issued free by C. C. Jackson, 1235 Jackson Street, San Francisco. For it, for it will help you to get the best variety of seeds to write to Mr. Morse, Jun. Thank him for the seeds given you through the