



# IN THE GARDEN

## Drainage Important

Good drainage is essential for success in growing vegetables. Drainage removes surplus water, increases soil temperature and enables air to enter the soil freely, thereby providing activity of useful types of soil bacteria.

In addition, it improves the tilth, increasing the depth of the soil and thus stimulating root development and makes the soil easier to work.

Sandy soils have a better natural drainage than clays, which tend to become water-logged in wet weather. In areas of poor natural drainage, or where the soils or subsoils are of a heavy clay type, it may be necessary to drain the vegetable garden by artificial means.

There are two types of drainage systems—surface and underground. The purpose of surface drainage is to remove the surface water, and this can be effected by utilising the series of depressions formed by raising the beds. If the beds are not raised, it will be necessary to form drainage channels by cutting shallow trenches between the plots. The drains may be connected at some suitable point, if desired, but in any case provision must be made for the drains to empty into the lower parts of the garden.

Underground drains are more effective than surface drains as they drain the soil in the root zone. The cost of construction is greater, but this is offset by the better results obtained. The layout of the system will depend largely on the size and contour of the area, but a series of more or less parallel drains placed about 25 feet apart will be effective in most instances. To construct the drain, home gardeners should cut a trench 2 to 2½ feet deep, 9 inches wide at the base and 12 inches wide at the top, having a gradual fall of at least 4 inches per 100 feet. The bottom of the drain should be evenly sloped to prevent localised accumulations of water. The trench should be filled to a depth of 4 to 5 inches with broken stone or tile and this covered with a layer of some durable material such as tin, hard wooden boards or palings to prevent the entry of soil. Care should be taken to see that the

material is placed end to end at the joins, which can then be covered with a small piece of tin as an additional precaution. The drain is then complete and the soil should be replaced in the trench.

It is necessary to construct the drain 1½ to 2 feet below the soil level so that it will not interfere with cultivation. If the nature of the subsoil prevents the drains being placed at the correct depth below the beds, they may be placed underneath the paths at depths ranging up to 2 feet.

August is the month to grow the following:—

### FLOWERS.

Ageratum, Alyssum, Antirrhinum, Arctotis, Asters, Blue Lace Flower, Boronia, Calliopsis, Canna, Candytuft, Capsicum, Carnation, Clianthus, Delphinium, Dianthus, Didiscus, Gaillardia, Gladiolus, Godetia, Marigold, Nepeta, Phlox, Poppy, Scabiosa, Verbena.

### VEGETABLES.

Beans, Beet, Cabbage, Carrot, Celery, Cucumber, Lettuce, Melons, Mustard, Pumpkin, Parsnip, Tomato, Vegetable Marrow.



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