

C. GARDENS AND GARDENING

'One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth'.



A simple definition of a garden is a plot of land or soil on which flowers or vegetables, or both, are grown. However, a garden may be any place set aside for plants of all kinds—flowers, herbs, fruit, vegetables, shrubs or trees. The plants in a garden are grown in an ordered way, for people to use and enjoy.

Gardening is the activity of planting and taking care of gardens. It is an activity that brings us joy as well as satisfaction. All of us make plans for the future. And how happy do we feel when those plans come to life! The activity of gardening provides endless opportunities of making plans, and then seeing those plans come to life.

Kinds of Garden: There are many kinds of garden: gardens grown around houses, window-box gardens, indoor gardens, greenhouse gardens, kitchen gardens, market gardens, botanical gardens, historical gardens, national parks, and other special places where plants are grown.

Class-notes :

- 15 Some gardens are grown to suit a certain soil or climate, such as rock or desert gardens. Some have a particular style of planting, such as Japanese or English. Some have only one kind of plant in all its varieties. Others may have plants of just one or two colours. The possibilities are endless, and that is one of the exciting things about growing a garden of your own.

20 **A Garden of Your Own:** Before planning a garden of your own, you must make sure of certain things. The most important thing to know is the kind of plants that will grow well in the climate, soil and space that you have to deal with. You must also take into account
25 the supply of water you can have for watering the plants. Look at what other gardeners in your neighbourhood are growing. Ask their advice. Then decide what you would like to grow yourself. Flowers? Vegetables? Plants that will look pretty? Or plants that will be picked and used?

30 Having decided, there are some simple steps you can take to grow a successful garden. Everything that grows needs light, air, water and food. And the plants also need all these things. To ensure all this, the following steps are recommended:

- 35 1. Choose a site for your garden that has good soil and light.
2. Dig the soil to make it loose, so that air can get into it.
3. Add food to the soil by digging in manure, fertilizer, or other suitable plant food.
4. Rake the soil to make it fine, and to get rid of stones and weeds.
- 40 5. Follow the instructions for planting very carefully.
6. Feed, water, and weed regularly.
7. Take suitable measures to get rid of harmful insects and also to check plant diseases.
- 45 8. Pick flowers, fruit, and vegetables at regular intervals and enjoy them. It will usually result in their continuing supply.

50 Most important of all, do not try to do too much too soon. Start with a few plants that you know will grow well in your area. Learn all you can from other gardeners and gardening books and let your garden grow bigger gradually as you come to know more and more. If one of your plants should die, find out the reasons, so that the same thing doesn't happen again.

Class-notes :

Container Gardens: some people who don't have enough land for growing a garden often grow small plants in window-boxes, on balconies or terraces, in tubs or other containers. A window-box should be strongly built, and must be firmly supported, for it can be very heavy when filled with soil. It should be filled with finely ground soil mixed with plant food, and should have good water drainage. The direction which the window faces is also important, because some plants grow well in the sun while others prefer shade.



A **terrarium** is a glass-sided container for growing plants and keeping small creatures. The container may have a cover to help conserve moisture and humidity. A bottle-garden has plants grown in bottles. Both terrariums and bottle-gardens need great care and patience. They require only a little of sunshine, and if placed in a hot sunny window, they will soon wither away and die. These gardens should not be covered too tightly because humidity will build up and fog the walls.

Planting: After preparing seed beds, seeds should be sown in rows so that the plants give a beautiful look when they grow up. As a rule, seeds should be sown twice their diameter deep, and then covered with fine soil to keep the surface loose and moist. This helps in the sprouting and growth of seedlings. Some seeds sprout in three or four days; others may take a week or more.

As soon as any seed has begun to sprout, the new seedling must be taken care of. It is the most important time in the life of a plant. The tiny plantlets can die if they are not watered properly at regular intervals.

Class-notes :

Many seedlings are not easy to transplant; therefore, seeds such as sweet peas, beans and gourds should be sown in the spot where they are to grow. If the plants come up too close together, they should be thinned out.

Garden Tools: The spade, the fork, the rake, and the hoe are the basic garden tools. There are various types of spades, and as they are used for digging they should all have clean, sharp edges to cut the soil easily. Forks with four tines (or prongs) are also used for digging. For handling leaves, manure and similar materials, forks with larger number of tines can be used. A greater number of tines can help to hold the material more easily.



The rake is used for smoothing the soil after it has been dug. It is also used for gathering leaves and the grass that has been cut.

- 90 There are various types of hoe, and all are used for loosening the soil and removing weeds. The most common is the Dutch hoe which has to be pushed, as its blade sticks out forwards. Some gardeners, however, prefer the draw hoe. Its blade slopes backwards and as its name suggests, it has to be drawn towards oneself, not pushed away.
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Class-notes :

If you have a big grass lawn around your garden, a lawn-mower will be necessary. But a small patch of grass can be cut by shears, which are like an enormous pair of scissors. Shears for cutting hedges are much the same but they have thicker blades and stronger handles.

100 After use metal tools should be cleaned, oiled and hung up. Cutting tools must have their cutting edge sharpened from time to time, and should be greased before being stored.

105 Other useful gardening equipment includes a watering can, a wheel-barrow, a pair of rubber boots for muddy ground, and a pair of gardening gloves for protecting the hands and keeping them clean.

Grow a garden of your own, and then you'll find what a store of joy and satisfaction lies therein!

C.1.

Find from the text words which have the following meanings:

1. plants with soft, green stems, in contrast to the woody stems of shrubs or trees; these plants die down to the ground after flowering. (lines 1 to 10)
2. plants smaller than trees, having several stems that spring up from near ground level; these plants do not die down to the ground each year. (lines 1 to 10)
3. long narrow box fixed outside a window, in which plants are grown. (lines 5 to 15)
4. building with sides and roof of glass, used for growing plants that need protection from the weather. (lines 5 to 15)
5. animal dung or other material, natural or artificial, spread over or mixed with soil to make it fertile. (lines 30 to 40)
6. a long handled tool with a row of prongs at the end used for levelling the soil, drawing together fallen leaves, etc. The word has been used as a verb here. (lines 35 to 45)
7. wild plants growing where they are not wanted, especially among crops or garden plants. (lines 35 to 45)
8. paved area beside a house. The plural form of this word has been used here. (lines 50 to 60)
9. system of drains. (lines 50 to 60)

Class-notes :