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Garden Crop Suggestions

by

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It is sometimes very difficult to decide just what will be the best garden crop to produce. The only way we can do this is to find out if possible what your land is best suited to and for what your market will pay the most. As a general rule the market problem is the most important one. However, the soil must be carefully considered.

It is always an excellent plan to grow a crop that can be marketed in two or more ways. For example, a good crop of Chantenay carrots may be sold for table use, to a dairyman for cow feed, or fed to hogs at a profit.

Field corn is sometimes marketed as roasting ears, as silo feed for dairy cows, as feed corn when ripe, or used as seed corn.

Tomatoes can be marketed to advantage as fresh fruit, to a cannery at fair price, or canned at home and sold in the can.

If you have an acre or more of good land and your market is not good for vegetables it will probably be better to grow field corn, sunflowers, tomatoes, carrots or onions rather than attempt a large number of vegetables. If, however, you have a small piece of good, rich soil, intensive crops like head lettuce, celery or peppers will be the most profitable.

Vegetables like carrots and beets may be profitably marketed in bunches during the growing season or converted into an extra fancy product by canning when very small and marketed to a special trade.

If you are favorably located sugar beets for the sugar beet factory may prove to be a very profitable crop if properly handled.

It is not generally advisable to attempt to grow and profitably market novelty crops, like mushrooms, herbs, or similar crops, nevertheless there may be good money in sage, horseradish or even winter rhubarb.

If conveniently located to a good market, and you like the work the culture of violets in cold frames is very profitable. The larger part of the crop will of necessity be ready to market early in spring.

You must study your problems very carefully. It may be advisable to plan to feed a part or all of your crop to sheep, hogs or calves, and that you could get better returns in this way than in any other way.