

**HOME GARDENING:
A MANUAL FOR
THE AMATEUR**

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Home Gardening: A Manual for the Amateur by W. D. Drury

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W. D. DRURY

**HOME GARDENING:
A MANUAL FOR
THE AMATEUR**

GARDENING FOR AMATEURS.

Articles on current matters of a practical character relating to Gardening in all its branches will be found in "The Garden Supplement" to *The Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*, published free with that paper on the 3rd Monday of each month during the gardening season, and may be obtained at any bookstall or newsagent.

HOME GARDENING :

A GUIDE FOR THE AMATEUR.

HOME GARDENING:

A Manual for the Amateur.

CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LAYING
OUT, STOCKING, CULTIVATION, AND
MANAGEMENT OF SMALL GAR-
DENS — FLOWER, FRUIT,
AND VEGETABLE.

By W. D. DRURY, F.R.H.S.

(Author of "Bulbs and Bulb Culture," "Insects Injurious to Fruit," &c.).

Well Illustrated.

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1898.

PREFACE.

DESPITE the powerful attractions of the many forms of outdoor amusements, the pursuit of gardening more than holds its own. It is, in fact, steadily increasing, and each year welcomes a number of fresh recruits to its already crowded ranks. This influx has created a demand for everything appertaining to the proper carrying out of the pursuit, and in this the literature of the subject has very naturally participated. Strange to say, however, the absolute novice has not been so well catered for, and it is for him especially that this manual has been written—the man or woman, in fact, whose small garden is a source of unknown possibilities.

In a manual of this kind the chief difficulty which presents itself is how to cover a very wide subject in a restricted space. Perhaps it is this which has deterred more capable exponents from undertaking the task. However, the writer has done his best, and though the particulars furnished are but brief jottings from an amateur's diary, it is hoped that they will be found useful by the class of gardeners for whom they are intended.

W. D. D.

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HOME GARDENING.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

"How shall I stock my garden?" may not present such a difficult problem for solution to the amateur gardener as does the vexed question, "How shall I educate my son?" to the anxious father. That, however, it does present difficulties—and considerable difficulties—must be evident to anyone who has even dabbled in gardening matters.

Gardening is a healthful and invigorating pastime, and once the A B C of the subject has been mastered, it is one of the most fascinating avocations which one can take up. Thousands are each year attracted to its ranks, and it is quite impossible to labour long in such a field without feeling alike better in mind and body. Nature is presented to the student in so many phases, that her all-refining influence is quickly felt, as page after page of what was previously a sealed book is revealed.

In speaking of gardening, too, I refer to its restricted meaning—the meaning rather of the majority, who have, say, a small space at the back of their town or suburban villa which they wish to utilise to the best advantage—and not to the higher forms of the art, such as orchid-growing, the cultivation of choice exotics, or even of flowering plants and vegetables for exhibition. The amateur must walk before he can run, and by the time he is able

to accomplish the latter he will have found far more capable exponents of a Science of which so far all too little is known even by the most practical.

Thanks to County Council lectures and the useful work disseminated by a cheap and popular Press, the amateur of to-day is in a far better position to acquire knowledge than he was even ten years ago. Still, for all that, his bewilderment at the choice of good things in every catalogue reaching him is as great as ever it was. There is the same embarrassment of riches—the same difficulty of selecting from such a host the varieties in each section best adapted to his individual requirements. The glowing descriptions of each vegetable or flower, as he eagerly scans the catalogue's pages, perfectly confuse him; for even in his anxiety to secure the best kinds, his want of confidence in his own judgment not infrequently leads him into error. Moreover, he may be situated in a remote district unreachd yet by the educating voice of the County Council lecturer, and where the village library contains nothing so unorthodox as a guide to gardening.

It is with the idea of helping such as these that the present manual has been devised by an amateur for an amateur. Of necessity it is impossible to crowd into a book of a hundred pages or so even the pith of so vast a subject, though it is possible to give much helpful information—in such a way, too, that it will, it is hoped, be readily grasped—and, moreover, to publish the book at a price which is within the reach of all. The author's endeavour will be to give some such information as he himself stood in need of twenty or more years ago, and in doing so, he trusts that in each phase of Home Gardening presented there will be something that will be of service to the novice of to-day.

The ground covered by this little work will be the Flower, Fruit, and Vegetable Gardens, Window Boxes, Window Gardening, Room Decoration, and Shrubs for Small Gardens (with special reference to town subjects), Wall Coverers, Plants for Cool Greenhouses and Frames; and under each principal section, too—Fruit, Vegetables, etc.—some slight allusion will be made to the foss of the gardener.

In dealing with Flowers proper, it will be the author's desire to give a helping hand to that more permanent form of gardening