

**A MANUAL OF VEGETABLE PLANTS:
CONTAINING THE EXPERIENCES OF THE
AUTHOR IN STARTING ALL
THOSE KINDS OF VEGETABLES WHICH
ARE MOST DIFFICULT FOR A NOVICE TO
PRODUCE FROM SEEDS**

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A Manual of Vegetable Plants: Containing the Experiences of the Author in Starting All Those Kinds of Vegetables Which Are Most Difficult for a Novice to Produce from Seeds by Isaac F. Tillinghast

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ISAAC F. TILLINGHAST

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THE EXPERIENCES OF THE AUTHOR IN STARTING ALL THOSE
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WITH

THE BEST METHODS KNOWN FOR COMBATING AND REPELLING
NOXIOUS INSECTS, AND PREVENTING THE DISEASES
TO WHICH GARDEN VEGETABLES
ARE SUBJECT.

BY

ISAAC F. TILLINGHAST.

FACTORYVILLE, PA. :
TILLINGHAST BROTHERS.

1878.

PREFACE.

We offer this little volume to the world, honestly believing that its perusal will benefit all its readers who are so situated as to apply its teachings to practice.

As a literary writer we claim no credit, and invite no criticism upon our work as a rhetorical essay, or in a literary point of view.

It has been written entirely during odd hours snatched from business pursuits, and its text must be very imperfect. In its composition we have endeavored to be as brief and concise as possible, knowing well that by the majority of people in this hurrying age the wheat will be considered more valuable without the chaff than with it. Ideas of value are wanted. We have endeavored to supply them.

If, after a careful perusal, the reader agrees with us in thinking that the knowledge herein contained is worth to him more than the price of the volume, he must rest abundantly satisfied with his investment.

We are aware that more printed paper may be obtained elsewhere for less money than in this instance.

But that argues nothing. Good milk may be obtained at a far less cost for a given quantity than cream or butter. We charge for the ideas, which are our own, and not for the paper on which they are printed, or the covers which contain them. The latter are easily obtainable, the former are not. If you buy a pound of sugar for a shilling, and the merchant sends it to you in a china bowl, you will thank him for the bowl rather than grumble because he did not send a ten-quart pail.

That all who purchase a copy of this work may be enabled to profit by its teachings, an hundred-fold upon their investment, is the sincere wish of

THE AUTHOR.

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PART FIRST.

GROWING PLANTS UNDER GLASS.

IN this broad and fair but fickle and undulating clime, where Dame Nature's promises of flowery spring-time are so frequently frowned upon by a polar wave, which drives the life-blood back to the very heart of every unprotected living thing, some kind of protection from the lingering wintry blasts is an absolute necessity to every grower of early garden vegetables, whether he be a producer of them in large quantities for market purposes, or only seeks to supply his own table with early delicacies, or his garden with plants which are to be the germs of future substantials. Some kind of protection from the cold above, and an addition to the natural warmth below the growing plants, is required; and to meet this end, the heat which is developed by the slow combustion of vegetable matter or the decomposition of

stable manures has generally been the accepted means of accomplishing the desired object.

THE MANURE HOT-BED has been so frequently described, and the best manner of constructing it so fully dwelt upon by all the principal agricultural journals, works on gardening, and seed catalogues, which have been freely scattered over the land, that we deem a description of it altogether unnecessary in our present work, especially as we think that the day of using *manure for fuel* will soon be known only in the recollections of the past. The inestimable value which we, as tillers of the soil, long ago learned to put upon manure for plant food, and the cheapness with which the desired amount of heat could be produced from the more natural article of fuel, *coal*, led us to experiment in this direction, with the result of several years ago abolishing our manure-beds and depending entirely upon our FIRE HOT-BEDS for producing winter headed lettuce and vegetable plants for early spring use. Indeed, our labors in this direction have given us such unbounded satisfaction, and we find that the use of such structures is so illy un-