

**SOUTHERN  
GARDENER'S  
PRACTICAL MANUAL**

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Southern gardener's practical manual by J. S. Newman

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BY

J. S. NEWMAN

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1906

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By J. S. NEWMAN

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## PREFACE

SINCE White's "Gardening for the South," first published in 1856, there has been no work which furnished a reliable, practical guide to the southern gardener. There are works which treat instructively of the scientific principles involved in the art of gardening. There are others which, emanating from the northern states, are valuable for that section of our country, but, owing to variations of soil and climatic conditions, they possess little value as a guide to the southern gardener. The object of this work is to furnish a reliable, practical guide to those who desire to avail themselves of the wonderful facilities afforded by our sunny Southland for supplying the family table with fresh vegetables from the kitchen-garden every day in the year.

Fifty years of successful experience in gardening and fruit-growing on both a domestic and a commercial scale, inspires some measure of confidence in my ability and right to speak *ex cathedra* on the subject.

During an official life of thirty years, in close touch with the tillers of the soil, and through a voluminous correspondence, covering answers to letters of inquiry from farmers and horticulturists, I have been impressed with the need of a work of the character of the one now attempted. While it is undertaken with many misgivings as to my ability to adequately supply the demand,



the earnest appeals of many friends to leave to the millions of southern toilers the lessons learned during a half century of study, experiment and experience as a devotee to the art of horticulture, encourage me to make an effort to leave some guiding "footprints on the sands of time."

Believing that a more abundant and continuous supply of tender, fresh vegetables and luscious fruits upon the tables in our southern homes, replacing to some extent the deadly frying-pan and the omnipresent canned goods, will contribute to health, refinement and intellectuality, I feel that my declining years can, in no other way, be more appropriately spent than in an earnest, honest effort to render our farm homes more attractive and their occupants more healthy and happy.

The true gardener loves his plants as living companions, and enjoys their successful growth as he does the happiness and prosperity of his children. Plants respond to kind, intelligent treatment, and manifest their gratitude by supplying more abundantly and perfectly their treasure of flowers and fruits. The fragrant rose greets with blushing pride the coming of its kindly benefactor, and seems to delight in his affectionate admiration. There can be no contamination from association with plants, and no danger of deadly disease germs in the consumption of their products.

I have been greatly assisted in the preparation of this book by Prof. C. C. Newman, Professor of Horticulture in Clemson Agricultural College, and Horticulturist of South Carolina Experiment Station.

J. S. NEWMAN.

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