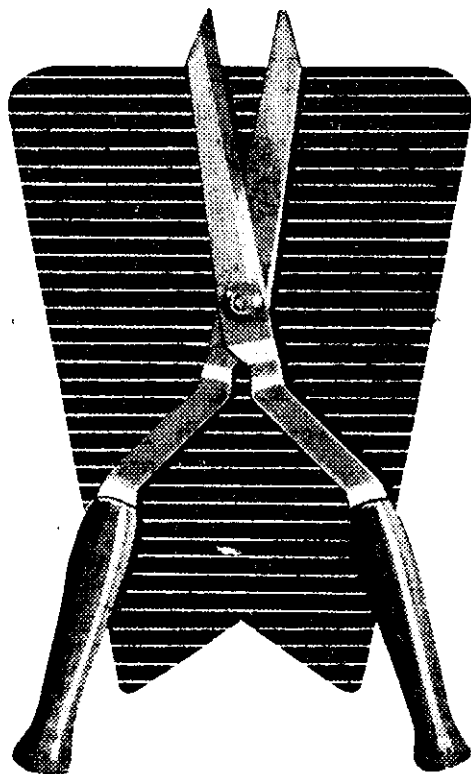
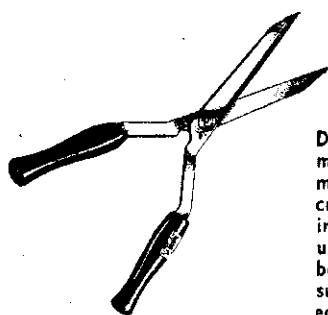


Garden with confidence...



W.415
LIGHT GARDEN SHEARS

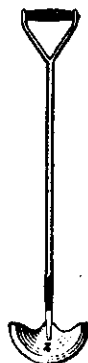
The strength of these shears, combined with the lightness of their hollow ground blades, give you the perfect instrument for every kind of grass and hedge cutting.



W.412
GARDEN SHEAR

Designed for normal body movement and ease of cutting, this shear incorporates the unique floating bolt which ensures smooth, easy action. Rust-resisting, hollow-forged blades.

W.458
EDGING KNIFE
Sharp, rust-resisting blade, bevelled one side only for an easy, clean cut.



W.421
LONG-HANDLED PRUNER

- Essential for all heavy pruning.
- Tubular steel handles, shock absorbing rubber grips, rust-resisting blades.
- Ensures clean, easy cut up to 1 1/2 in. diameter.



W.417
LONG HANDLED EDGING SHEAR
Rust resisting blades and tubular steel handles provide great strength and unusual lightness. Fitted with shock absorbing rubber grips.



AVAILABLE
FROM
ALL GOOD
HARDWARE
STORES AND
SEEDSMEN

WILKINSON
SWORD
Renowned since 1772
GARDEN TOOLS

Practical Gardening

(continued from previous page)

growing, but unfortunately is not permanent. Another question sometimes asked about garden layout is: How should I divide the garden up according to the amount of water different crops need? This, as a matter of fact, is not practical, as most vegetables need roughly the same amount of water.

Weed Control

The hardest thing in the world, said Mr. Saroyan, is to make a beginning, and in the cruel month of August the reluctant gardener couldn't agree more. But with soil diagnosis and treatment and layout now ticked off on fingers soon to be stiff and calloused, there must come eventually an end to delay. What else must be done before seeds or seedlings go into the ground? What have we already in it that must come out? Weeds? Grass? For the brand new gardener on a section just recently subdivided from grassland, the problem of grass coming through every year can generally be solved by *thorough* cultivation over a hot, dry summer, but an inheritance of weeds is not always so easily solved. A little oxalis, for instance, goes a long way, and if you have it in your garden you must painstakingly remove all of it. If your garden is smothered with oxalis you can try to get rid of it from a small area by sieving, or you can combat it by swapping your vegetable garden for your back lawn—oxalis will not compete with grass that is mown regularly. No other solution is known at present. Onion plant, a nuisance in some districts, can be controlled by repeated applications of 2,4-D, a hormone weedkiller. The first application should be made when the Spring leaves are four to six inches high, and a second at the same time next year. With couch, or Old Man Twitch, as many Mainlanders call it, a weedkiller known as T.C.A., applied to the upturned sod is said to be quite effective so long as it's used according to directions. (It's best, in fact, to get expert advice before using any weedkiller—and especially the hormone preparations.) However, the old backbreaker—constant cultivation and forking—is probably the best couch-conqueror in small gardens.

On the weed problem generally the sage old saying "One year's seeding means seven years' weeding," has an obvious moral: "Get them while they're young." (Or, if you think two platitudes better than one: "Nip them in the bud.") By attacking weeds early, and by growing green manure crops, cultivation can be reduced to what's necessary to prepare the ground for seed or plants. The amount of cultivation necessary depends on the soil, but on any soil you'll lighten your labours by seeing that it's fed plenty of organic matter. In dry weather soils that have been fed in this way will not present a face of iron-hard clods to break the back and the spirit. And, by the way, never cultivate heavy soils too soon after rain.

There's probably no better time to think about your

ON THE AIR

TALKS on gardening will be heard from NZBS stations next week at the following times:

Monday: 3YA, 4YZ (7.15 p.m.).
Tuesday: 1YA (8.15 p.m.), 4YA (7.15 p.m.).
Wednesday: 2YA (7.15 p.m.).
Thursday: 1XN (6.45 p.m.), 1ZB (10.0 p.m.), 2YZ (7.15 p.m.), 3ZB (10.0 p.m.), 3YZ (7.15 p.m.).
Saturday: 1XH (10.15 a.m.), 1YZ (10.30 a.m.), 2XG (8.45 p.m.), 2XP (9.0 a.m.), 2ZA (10.15 a.m.), 2ZB (9.0 a.m.), 3ZB (9.0 a.m.).

crops to come—what to plant and where and how much—than the moment of rest after labour as, foot on spade, you survey the upturned soil. Did it have a crop before, and if so, what? In a home garden it's best to try and shift your crops about in succeeding seasons, following leafy crops with root crops and finding a place if possible for green manure crops. That, briefly, is crop rotation, which, if it does nothing else, will reduce the risk of soil-borne diseases.

You'll notice that we're back now just about where we came in with our reluctant gardener's agonising re-appraisal. Should he concentrate on a few staple crops or should he have a little of everything in the garden? And what, anyway, are the easiest and safest crops to grow? Since vegetables cost most in winter, winter crops are the most important: cabbage, cauliflower, silver beet, carrots, parsnips. Careful planning in the height of the season will help you to make the best use of your garden. In that way gluts can be avoided and a fairly wide variety of vegetables grown. Where space is limited, however, leafy vegetables should come first, and carrots should be the main root crop, because in a *normal* year potatoes and onions are plentifully available. The safest, the *easiest* crops to grow are, in an ascending order of difficulty, silver beet, turnips, radishes, leeks, cabbage, beetroot, onions, carrots, dwarf beans, peas, potatoes, tomatoes.

Now if you know what you want, how are you to plan sowing and planting so that it will be ready when you want it? Many people say that even though they stagger plantings, crops, and especially peas and beans, still seem to come up at the same time. Like family planning gone wrong, this is a sad situation. It seems likely enough that if peas and beans are planted too early—in a period when there is practically no growth—then a later planting has every chance of maturing at the same time. We put this one to the experts, who promptly hid their embarrassment behind something called "heat-units."

The story goes something like this: Experiment shows that peas need from 1300 to 1700 "heat-units" from sowing to maturity, depending on the variety. In August, say, the heat-units may be zero a day, while in December they may be nearer 20. When the total heat-units for the variety have been reached, it has been found in the average case that the crop is fully

Parking Metres

THE PLOT SICKENS

TAKE off your hat—
Let's have a chat
On flowers that
Bloom in the spring.
Whether for bus,
Or hers or his,
A garden is
A lovesome thing.
You're feeling smug,
Killed every slug,
The ground is dug,
The seeds are sown,
The plants are set—
What do you get?
Toil, tears and sweat,
And blood and bone.

—R.G.P.