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Garden Tricks
by

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The difference between success and failure in garden work very frequently is in knowing how to overcome a slight difficulty, compel your crop to come on a little earlier or produce more of the extra fancy product and less of the poorer grades.

Some of the following suggestions or "tricks of the trade", if properly worked out, may be of real value to you in your work.

The early potato crop may be made from ten days to two weeks earlier by carefully selecting good smooth tubers with strong eyes and sprouting them in trays two to three weeks before planting them and then cutting and planting, "sprouts upright" in a carefully prepared seed bed. The sprouts must not be long and weak but should be short and strong.

The best way to prevent tomatoes from blighting is to start your plants early. Transplant to pots or tins, produce long, leggy plants, set in the field just as early as you can on land that has been trenched 15 to 18 inches deep. Before planting tomatoes fill the trench from one fourth to one third full of well rotted manure, cover with earth and set the plants in a horizontal position with four or five inches of the top above ground. The whole stem will soon become a mass of feeding roots and force early heavy fruitage. Where manure is used in the trench be sure to give plenty of irrigation during the hot part of the season.

Many young gardeners have difficulty in getting onion seeds to come up at once after planting. This trouble can be overcome by placing the seed in a fine wire strainer and pouring boiling water over it until the small white sprouts pop from their black covers. It only takes a moment to do this but the seed must be sown on moist warm soil soon after treating. If it becomes too dry the tender sprouts die.

It pays to soak all kinds of garden seeds before planting. Soak in warm water from 12 to 24 hours before planting and the plantlets will come up at once and the stand will usually be better than from unsoaked seeds.

If you are very desirous of having extra early cabbages, cucumbers or watermelons start the seed on separate plots of inverted bluegrass or clover sod in a hot bed, or in barrel boxes and when danger of frost is past, transplant the seed or boxes to the field and protect them from the weather for a few days.