

**THE FORCING BOOK: A
MANUAL OF THE
CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES
IN GLASS HOUSES**

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The Forcing Book: A Manual of the Cultivation of Vegetables in Glass Houses by L. H. Bailey

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L. H. BAILEY

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THE FORCING-BOOK

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THE
81941
FORCING-BOOK

*A MANUAL
OF THE CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES
IN GLASS HOUSES*

BY
L. H. BAILEY

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PREFACE.

ONE of the most interesting and significant evidences of the abiding expansion of horticultural business is the evolution of the glass house within the present century. It is only within the last one or two generations that the growing of plants in glass houses for the purpose of selling the product of bloom or of fruit has come to be important and widespread. The most recent part of the expansion, at least in this country, is the commercial growing of winter vegetables. It speaks well for the prosperity and refinement of our people when they are willing and able to purchase freely of the delicacies of the winter garden. This is one of those branches of agriculture which demands the nicest skill and the closest fellowship with plants. It is, therefore, one in which comparatively few people are fitted to engage, but it must, from the very force of civilization, be one of those occupations which shall gain impetus with time. If it is a business which demands much care and pains, then its promoters must be students. They will need helps. It is this thought which has produced this book.

The writer must hasten to say—what the attentive reader will soon discover—that he cannot consider himself to be an authority upon the subject. It has happened that he has been associated with considerable

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experimental work in the forcing of vegetables during the past few years, and he has endeavored to see much of the forcing industry of the country. In this time there has been a great accumulation of information and of notes which, since there is no adequate literature upon the subject, he has now set down in these pages. The book has been written for the commercial grower of winter vegetables, but the writer will be glad if it shall lead anyone to make the effort to grow the vegetables for his own table. The very obstacles which one must overcome make the effort all the more worth the while; and the satisfaction of growing a garden when the snow lies deep against the house is of the keenest and most unselfish kind.

The American writing upon vegetable-forcing is very recent. I have referred to most of it at various places in the text. It only remains to say that the basis of much of this book is the series of publications from the Cornell Experiment Station; and it is justice that I add a list of these papers. This list will also aid the student in tracing the bibliography of the literature of the forcing of plants. The Cornell bulletins upon the forcing of vegetables in glass houses (some of which are permanently out of print) are these: No. 28, Experiments in the Forcing of Tomatoes, June, 1891; No. 30, Some Preliminary Studies of the Influence of the Electric Arc Light upon Greenhouse Plants, August, 1891; No. 31, Forcing of English Cucumbers, September, 1891; No. 41, On the Comparative Merits of Steam and Hot Water for Greenhouse Heating, August, 1892; No. 42, Second Report upon Electro-Horticulture, Sep-

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tember, 1892; No. 43, Some Troubles of Winter Tomatoes, September, 1892; No. 53, Edema of the Tomato, May, 1893; No. 55, Greenhouse Notes (Third Report upon Electro-Horticulture, Winter Cauliflowers, Second Report upon Steam and Hot Water Heating), July, 1893; No. 94, Damping-Off, May, 1895; No. 95, Winter Muskmelons, June, 1895; No. 96, Forcing-House Miscellanies (Remarks upon the Heating of Forcing-Houses, Lettuce, Celery Under Glass, Cress in Winter, Forcing Eggplants, Winter Peas, Bees in Greenhouses, Methods of Controlling Greenhouse Pests by Fumigation, Treatment of Carnation Rust), June, 1895.

Whilst this manual discusses only the forcing of kitchen-garden vegetables, the essential principles which are set forth apply with almost equal directness to the forcing of plants for their bloom. It should be added, also, that it is the purpose of the book to treat only those crops which are raised to maturity in glass houses, so that the starting of plants for setting in the open, and all questions of hotbeds and coldframes, are omitted.

L. H. BAILEY.

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