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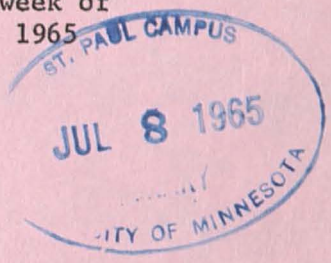
Yard 'n' Garden

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EXHIBITING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Any horticultural show or fair has three objectives. The first is to be educational; the second is to promote pride in the produce grown in the community; and the third is to stimulate improvement of better gardening through competition.

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Showmanship or grooming is as important as condition or quality of exhibits. There are some definite rules to follow in preparing specimens for exhibition.

First of all, check the premium list to be sure you have the exact number of specimens called for. All exhibits should be labeled as to variety to achieve the educational objective.

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Good showmanship involves uniformity of size, shape, color and maturity. Specimens should be typical of the variety as labeled. It is not always the largest specimen that is best for show. Showmanship also includes the proper cleaning and trimming of specimens. Washing is permitted for root crops and potatoes but they should not be scrubbed so hard the skin is damaged.

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Root vegetables should have 1½ inches of top remaining above the crown of the root. Tap roots of beets should be trimmed to 1½ inches in length. Onions should not be skinned. Each onion should have a hard, dry skin and the necks should be small and well cured.

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Cabbage should have one or two outside wrapper leaves on each specimen. Sweet corn should be exhibited in the husk. Bean pods should have the stems attached but tomato specimens should not have stems remaining.

Apples and pears should not be polished. They should have unbroken stems attached.

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