

Ol' Hoosier Farmer — June 22, 1977

By Jim Jones

This here's been a different spring an' a trip to th' gardens proves it beyond a doubt. Ground so dry th' seed laid there fer weeks an' didn't germinate. Have corn, what little of it came up, an' beans rangin' frum jest thru th' soil to normal height fer this time o' year. Wuz out to th' big patch today an' only got over about 3/4 of it--rest didn't have stuff up high enuff to cultivate. But th' bugs are goin' after it--bean beetles eatin' up stuff only 3 or 4 inches tall. Cain't win fer losin'.

But th' earlier stuff, other then th' peas, is lookin' fine. Have had a head or two of broccholi, lots of lettuce, radishes, an' onions. Peas wuz nice but no ways near th' crop last year. Small vines an' low yields. Got too hot too early this year fer peas.

Tomaters lookin' pretty fair. Sweet an' Irish taters lookin' good too. But th' good wife's flower beds are looking jest great. Must be th' mixture o' who takes care o' them an' th' good care itself. Coarse, they had water when they needed it but they are growin' jest fine.

We have found th' ol Troy Bilt Tiller is doin' a good job o' keepin' th' earth loose around plants an' between rows so as to slow down evaporation of soil moisture. Earth is so loose Hazel remarked it's too soft to walk in-- I can't stand up. Wal, yer right, Hazel but that loose soil is makin' th' stuff grow this year under bad conditions.

Th' good wife has a burd bath in one corner of her rose garden an' a bird feeder hangin' frum a convenient tree. Guess we got a lot o' lazy birds since th' feeder is a popular place. Been feedin' some coarse ground corn meal an' we has a lot o' birds. Nuthatches, pigeons, blue jays, even a cardinal or two. Some interestin' fights over who gits to eat since th' bird feeder is not too big. But it keeps things interestin' outside th' kitchen winder an' adds to th' landscape.

Time flies. First official day of summer has arrived-- seems like its been here a long time. Graduation over at th' school a few weeks ago, an' No. One Son has entered adult life. So times passes an' we gits older. Good wife reminded me t' other day we has a weddin' anniversary comin' up soon. So we has, I sez, we has one ever year. But after she reminded me how many this one will make, I have to stop an' think back over th' years. Ol John Turnipseed sed in his column in Prairie Farmer this week, that nobody but th' Lord Hissself is fittin' to referee a marriage, to keep Him handy. Good advice, John. We has tried, and I think, succeeded pretty well. I give thanks to th' Good Lord an' th' Good Wife fer 20 mighty fine years, comin' up next month.