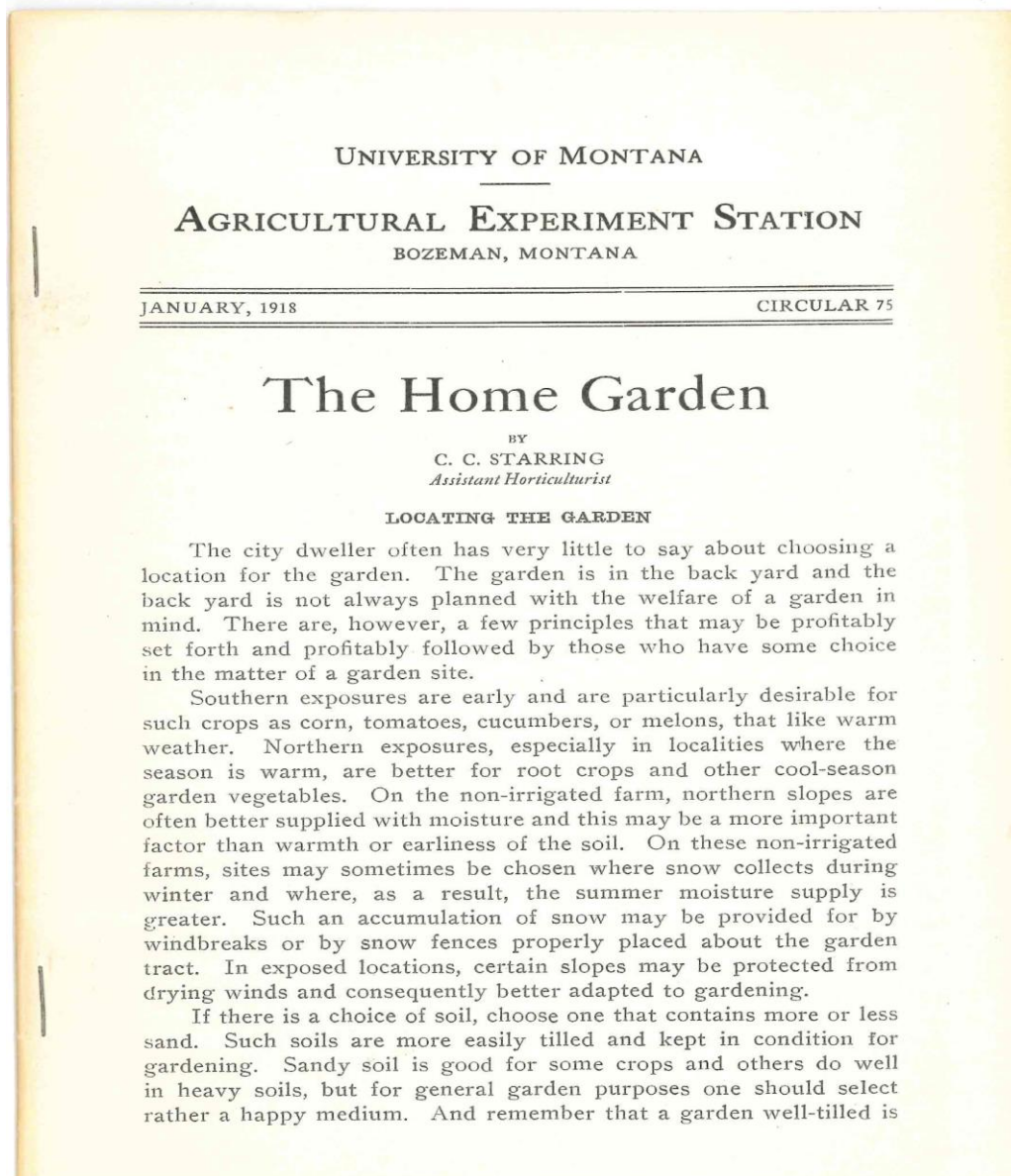


The World War I Home Garden

During WWI, Montanan's benefitted from the University of Montana Agricultural Experiment Station publications. Not surprisingly, the January 1918 Circular 75 was titled "The Home Garden." The 30-page pamphlet offered information on locating and planning a garden, as well as on soil preparation, irrigation and cultivation. What amazed this 2018 gardener was the diversity of vegetables discussed. I expected information on potatoes, cabbage and pumpkins. However, the instructions on growing and eating endive, Swiss chard, and parsley were welcome surprises. These included a recommendation for taking Parsley plants indoors to "supply leaves" during the winter months. What a great idea!



Parsley.—Cultural directions given for parsnips apply to this crop. The roots grown in the garden during the summer may be dug and planted in flower pots in the house to supply leaves throughout the winter. Any of the common varieties are suitable for planting.

Endive.—This salad plant requires practically the same culture as lettuce. Ten to fourteen days before using, the outer leaves may be drawn up and tied, thus blanching the center leaves and making them more palatable. Green Curled and White Curled are suitable varieties.

Swiss chard.—Those who like greens of any sort, and especially beet greens, should try this vegetable. It is a beet, but instead of the root, the leaves and their stalks are used, being prepared like greens. The stalks are sometimes prepared and served like asparagus. Planting and cultural directions given for beets apply to this crop, which does best under conditions favorable for growing beets. The size to which the leaves and stalks should grow before picking will be determined by personal preference. If the central bud or growing point is not injured in picking the leaves, new leaves will continue to develop until late in the fall. A row 15 to 25 feet long should keep an ordinary family well supplied with greens from mid-



Unidentified Woman Working in her 'War Garden, Helena, 1918, PAc 2005-4 A1 p. 10