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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
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SUBJECT: "Keep It Clean"...Information from Victory Garden Headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Have you ever known a homemaker who lets her housecleaning pile up until she has a terrific job getting it done? Some do. And on the other hand, there are those who keep their house painfully straight and spotless. They also make housecleaning a difficult job. The easiest method, the one we usually try to follow, is to do some cleaning every day. We don't let the house get too cluttered...nor do we keep it so orderly that people are uncomfortable in it.

Well...that's exactly the method the garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture suggest we follow in taking care of our garden. A garden takes some care...at least it needs to be looked over...every day. Then we know just when the insects attack...when to cultivate...when to harvest.

But it's wasted energy to...well, say...cultivate the ground if it doesn't need cultivating. Now...we do have to keep fighting weeds. Because they rob plants of water, food, even space and light. But if there aren't any weeds, we don't gain much by hoeing or cultivating the garden.

Time to get at the weeds is when they've just come up...and that's generally after a rain or thorough watering. Of course, the specialists advise us to wait until the ground is dry enough for proper cultivation. Then, a good hoeing or cultivating, shallow enough to keep from injuring plant roots, and deep enough to get all the weeds, will clear out the weeds and leave the soil in a loose condition to absorb later rainfall.

It doesn't take a lot of effort. But it is important to keep at the job. Because when the garden is free of weeds, our plants can come nearer producing the yields we hope for.

