

# Vegetable Garden in Autumn

*Sue Langland*

The corn stalks have gone haggard, becoming  
bony figures listing toward the open ground.  
The peppers are looking ominous, red and sharp as daggers.  
The lettuce has bloomed, the beans turned hard,  
and the tomatoes finally spilled their ripe, red guts.

Only the melons are left looking pompous.  
Water, manure, and 5-10-10 all summer long,  
and the vine borer kept gassed.  
How the melons swelled under such care!  
Fat cattle. Stick your fork in one, it bleeds sugar.