

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

During the summer of the second year, we should put stakes to the stems so as to prevent the wind from shaking the tubers, which would injure vegetation. Later on the tufts pushing out stronger and more numerous, no need for protection.

The harvesting of asparagus begins in May, and lasts six weeks to two months. By not continuing it beyond June, the following year's asparagus will be larger and earlier.

The use of the knife is bad. The knife alone destroys a part of the harvest. In cutting the asparagus, it attacks almost always one or more rudiments which are found at the foot. Further, it leaves often a bit of stem on the crown which uses sap to the detriment of the coming asparagus. Moreover it is an obstacle to those which are growing.

It is much better to break off the asparagus with the finger. We throw off the little mound to the beginning of the asparagus to be plucked, pass the finger behind, and with a sharp stroke we break it even with the crown. Thus there is nothing left on the crown, we do not destroy the rudiments which develop at the foot, their growth is not impeded, and the harvest is thus increased in volume and quality.

We must be careful not to cut the stems during the summer when they are in vegetation, as this would destroy a part of the next year's crop. They should be cut only in the fall when dead.

If we wish to add to the beauty of the products we will do well to take away the seeds as they are formed. Nothing tries a plant like the production of seed. The asparagus thus grained is always larger than that on which the seeds have been left.

We should unearth the asparagus in October at the latest. This, if done early, helps the next year's harvest as the roots exposed to the action of the air will strengthen and give finer fruit.

Immediately after the unearthing, manure with well decomposed matter. Some authorities say that manuring every two years is sufficient. We do not think so. The asparagus is greedy for manure, and the quality and quantity of its products will depend on this nourishment.

It is important that the manure be well decomposed. Otherwise when burying this manure in the spring we would be burying straw which would furnish nothing to the roots.

Some people find it hard to harvest nothing during two long years. To lessen the disappointment, we may plant between the rows a row of cauliflowers or potatoes, beets, turnips, or onions. But only one row, and that must be done away with the third year. We do not however extol this practice because we think it better to grow the asparagus alone.

All the preceding applies to cultivation in kitchen garden, and the same procedure should be followed when cultivating on a large scale in the field. Choose the soil best suited, which will require the least improvement. A calcareous soil of average consistence will do very well, Often even on the hill-