

is not my object here, but rather to give a few practical hints on the formation of an asparagus bed, and its management afterwards.

The first point is the selection of a suitable sort of ground. The asparagus likes deep sandy loam, and the ground should, at least, be trenched two and a half feet deep, laying the bottom about eight inches of solid cow manure. Care should be taken that the hole of the ground is turned regularly, and the ribs left behind the trenches. When the required space is turned up in this manner upon a good covering of well decomposed manure, taking care to keep the surface level, you proceed.

After the ground is thus prepared the next step is procure one or two year old plants from the seed; two year old plants are preferable because they will give asparagus one season earlier for table. The period at which it has been got ready, ought not to be later than the second week in April, if spring planting is preferred, and last week in October for fall planting. I have sowed asparagus seed in the first week in May in Canada, and planted the following October upon ground prepared as stated above, and in a part of Canada more rigorous in climate than my present locality, and I cut very fine asparagus from it the third year, fit for any table; but replanting two years old plants it can be cut the second year after planting. Now as planting the ground so prepared.

Asparagus is generally plowed in beds about four feet wide, thus giving three rows in the bed at eighteen inches from row to row, the side rows being six inches from the edge of the bed, and in the row fifteen inches from row to plant. But no benefit is derived from close planting. I believe two feet from row to row and eighteen inches from plant to plant is preferable and will yield finer asparagus. In planting, the crowns should not be more than one and a half inches under the surface for the covering every season adds to the depth over the crown. The beds should always be kept free of weeds, and the surface kept loose and free, which greatly tends to the vigorous and healthy growth of the plants. It should be attended to throughout the whole season of its growth, more especially the first season after planting, and in the fall, when the stalks are fully ripe, and cut off, the bed or beds should be covered two or three inches thick with good rotten manure, and over all a covering of stable dung or fine litter as a protection against frost. This is the finishing touch for the fall. In the spring the litter should be removed, and a good sowing of salt given regularly over the bed, and then a three pronged fork used to break the surface and mix all the short manure left on the bed. The alleys also should be forked up, throwing a little sprinkling

over the bed, which should afterwards be neatly raked.

Asparagus beds so prepared and attended to will last a quarter of a century. I have seen at Airthrey Castle, Stirlingshire, Scotland, asparagus beds which had been cut for a period of fifteen years, and looked as if they would stand other ten years. I believe it the best maxim that whatsoever a man doth, let him do it well." It gives most satisfaction and rewards the individuals at the end. I think every person who has a few square yards of spare ground ought to have his asparagus bed, all the trouble and expense is the formation of his bed; after planting there is but little trouble and expense attending it. And amongst all the vegetables there is none more relished than the asparagus coming in use early in the season, when there is very little else can be had from open air growth. It is always furnished for the table of the rich, but it is also within the reach of the poor man who can commend a small patch of ground that he can call his own.

For the Canadian Agriculturist.

Dwarf Apple Trees Again.

I was just about to comply with the request made in last year's *Agriculturist* by Mr. Beadle, to say a few words about dwarf apple trees, when I received your last number, containing some rather severe, and, I think, unwarrantable strictures, from R. B. Werden, upon "the representations made by the nurserymen in their catalogues and books, that the dwarf apple will bear when it is a small bush, or like the dwarf pears." This Mr. W. pronounces "only a humbug, and done for the purpose of selling their trees." Many persons will no doubt look upon such a charge as calculated to excite the displeasure of all nurserymen, who have ventured to say a word in favour of the early bearing properties of the dwarf apple. But I am very much inclined to think that every Canadian nurseryman can afford to smile, and to impute Mr. Werden's disappointment in his dwarf trees to his former unsuspecting credulity, or to his ignorance of the requirements of the trees so bitterly complained of. "For the purpose of selling their trees" indeed! Now if Mr. W. knows this to be a fact, he perhaps can tell us of some nurseryman who has a surplus of genuine dwarf apple trees, upon the true paradise stock. I have never yet known such, and should be much obliged for the information, having long been under the impression that the demand was greater than the supply.

Now sir, I shall venture to predict, that the barrenness of Mr. Werden's trees is traceable to one or more of the following causes, viz., 1st, having been grafted several inches below the surface of the soil, and that they are now principally growing upon their own roots, instead of