

The soil should be loose at the top and firm at the bottom. In the spring ploughing before planting, the plough should not go deeper than a half of a spade.

This firmness of the soil at the bottom is one of the chief elements of success in cultivating asparagus. That comes from its mode of vegetating. In order that the roots may work well and produce vigorous shoots, they must be placed the most superficially and horizontally possible, so that they may receive the contact of air and heat. If the soil had been ploughed too deep the roots would bury themselves, would vegetate badly, and the crop would be smaller in quantity and in size.

The soil having been improved, ploughed, levelled and well purged of stones and weeds, we shall proceed to plant.

On the two sides of the prepared land, we put pickets at 3 feet from each other, the two first at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the side. This distance of 3 feet will be that which separates the rows of asparagus. Shortly on each of the rows we will space the tubers at equal distances of 3 feet, taking care to plant them in quincunx form.

This spacing of three feet may seem exaggerated, but we estimate that if we have at our disposal a sufficient area, three feet is the least we should give to harvest large and numerous asparagus plants. At Argenteuil the space is 2 feet 8 inches, and when there is question of obtaining products for exhibition, the spaces are made as large as 4 and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

To the right and the left of the first and last picket of each row, we measure a width of seven inches and trace it with the string. We thus obtain surfaces of 7x7 inches, or 14 inches width between the lines.

Then with the spade or hoe, we take away a thickness of 5 or 6 inches of soil over all these surfaces, and throw this earth to the right and left, so that we have little cuttings of 14 inches width, and 5 to 6 inches depth.

We then take manure well worked up, and spread it in the trenches a thickness of 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and amalgamate it with the earth at the bottom, which raises this bottom about an inch and a half. There will then remain a depth of 4 inches to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, which is more than sufficient for the plantation.

In the midst of each trench we put little sticks in each place to be occupied by a tuber.

When the sticks are in place, we deposit two or three handfuls of manure before each on the right of the trenches.

It is well to attend to all these details before planting, so that it may be promptly and well done.

We form then by hand in the midst of the trench, in the place of each tuber, a little knoll of earth about 6 inches in diameter, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches high. We place the tuber on the top of the knoll, and spread with care its roots all around. We spread on the roots a very light coating of earth, and make this earth adhere to the extremities of the roots by light pressure. Then we spread with the hands the little reserve of vegetable mold placed in advance on the edge of the trench over the roots already covered with a little earth, being care-