

Choice of tubers. Take by preference those a year old. At that age the roots are not much developed and will hardly suffer from transplanting. They recover quick, and in a well managed soil, will give the third year very fine asparagus.

In two years the roots have acquired a certain length, and as they are very fragile it is difficult, if not impossible, to transplant them without loss. The tubers thus mutilated will retake badly, languish a long time, and give unsatisfactory products.

Good tubers are easily recognized. They have a large crown, the roots are thick, short and few, and two eyes, three at the most, large at the base and well rounded.

We should reject without hesitation those which have long roots, thin and numerous, with four or five pointed eyes on the crown.

It is better to plant tubers freshly plucked, but we may keep them some days, even two or three weeks, without great inconvenience before using them. In this case we spread them out in a very airy and shady place, so as to avoid the rottenness to which tubers are very subject. If they fade and shrivel a little, they will none the less recover.

When shipping tubers a distance, they should be kept in baskets so that the air may penetrate and prevent their rotting.

There need therefore be no anxiety concerning the distance and length of trip when ordering good tubers

#### CHOICE AND PREPARATION OF SOIL.

Asparagus requires lots of manure and loves lime. It is under the influence of this last element that it develops quickly and acquires quality, volume and color. The soils therefore preferable for its culture are those naturally calcareous, but with a judicious and not costly improvement, and with manure, we can obtain fine asparagus in all soils.

If the soil is heavy clay, it is good to give a big ploughing in the fall before the frost, and leave it thus all winter. In the spring spread over the surface sand mixed with crushed plaster, old lime cement or ashes, and amalgamate the whole by a good ploughing, taking care to extract the stones and break the clods.

In the exceptional cases where the soil retains stagnant water, it must be drained.

Autumn ploughing is only necessary where the soil is extremely compact. In soils of average consistence containing sufficient calcareous matter, one ploughing in the spring suffices. In silicious soils where asparagus thrives, one ploughing also suffices, by which we bury in the soil at the same time lime.

We cannot repeat too often that lime is the element of predilection of the asparagus. The more of it you give, the more will the product be large and succulent.

The soil should be ploughed before planting with a spade.

This firmness of soil is necessary in cultivating asparagus so that the roots may not be in contact of air and heat, but bury themselves, with safety and in size.

The soil having been cleared of weeds, we shall

On the two sides of the trench, the two first rows that which separate the tubers, we will space the tubers in quincunx form.

This spacing of the tubers we have at our disposal will give a harvest large and numerous, 8 inches, and when the rows are made as large

To the right and left we measure a width of space of 7x7 inches

Then with the spade we cut the soil over all these surfaces we have little cutting

We then take manure to the thickness of 2 to 2½ inches which raises this bottom to a depth of 4 inches to 4½

In the midst of each row we place by a tuber.

When the sticks are in place before each on the right

It is well to attend to the trench promptly and well done

We form then by the spade a little knoll of soil around the tuber. We place the tuber on the knoll. We spread earth around. We spread earth to the edge of the trench with the hands the little edge of the trench over