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HORTICULTURE

Preparation of Asparagus Bed

Can you give me any information regarding the growing of asparagus? When is the best season to plant the roots? What kind of soil is suitable? Also how would you treat the land?—G. W. W., Huron Co., Ont.

Asparagus roots are planted in the early spring. They may be purchased from a nursery or may be grown very easily by sowing the seed in the drill in the garden. Plants will be ready for setting in the permanent bed at the end of one or two years. The best soil for the permanent bed is a loam, although any well drained



course, it should not be heavy the first season. Immediately after the cutting season is the proper time for manuring, and a very heavy application should be applied at that time and worked well into the soil with a disc or spading harrow. The tops are then allowed to grow, but should be cut down and buried before the seeds ripen in the fall.—Prof. J. W. Crow, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

Directions for Spraying

Please give directions as to what material to use for spraying, how many times I ought to spray, and the proper time to spray.—J. D. Victoria Co., Ont.

Two mixtures are commonly used for spraying apple trees, lime-sulphur and Bordeaux. Leading horticultur-

often as to injure the roots. Every week that growth is continued so much is gained. Spray with Bordeaux mixture three or four times. Use machines both to plant and to dig potatoes.

Fruit Outlook Favorable

Orchards were not in blossom when the Ontario Department of Agriculture issued its latest crop bulletin, this season being later than usual, and about three weeks behind last year's very early period of bloom. Fruit buds, however, promise to be plentiful.

War upon scale, codling moth, and other pests is being conducted with more vigor than ever, and several correspondents point to the improved appearance of fruit trees as the result of work done in the last year or two in the way of spraying, pruning, and the better general culture of orchards. A few reports of damage to trees from mice come from some of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Counties.

Disinfectants for Pruning Tools

One pint formalin diluted to two gallons with water, or corrosive sublimate one part to 1,000 by weight (1 tablet to one pint of water) can be used to disinfect pruning tools. The solutions can be applied with a swab on the end of a stick.

Corrosive sublimate is a deadly poison to man or beast if taken internally. It will also corrode iron or metal. It must be used, therefore, in glass or wooden vessels. Formalin is not poisonous.

Pruning tools if not disinfected after using on each tree infected with canker or other diseases will spread the infection.

Peterboro Orchards.—Some demonstration orchard work is being carried on this year in Peterboro Co., in connection with the local branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, in charge of Mr. H. C. Duff. Three acres of a 10-acre orchard belonging to the local branch of the department have been renovated and put in a condition which local people before would not have believed to be possible. Spraying demonstrations are also being made to Mr. J. Sargent's orchard and a number of small orchards in the vicinity of Norwood are being sprayed by their owners under the direction of the Department, which is supplying material for the purpose.

There is no mulching system that is equal to thorough cultivation in the orchard. Mulching in some cases has given good results where it is roughly done, but very few growers are thorough enough to make a success of this system. Mulching, however, is better than leaving the orchard in sod.—W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist

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The Best way to Interest Farmers in Spraying

Many farmers who do not spray their orchards would do so did they know how to go about it. Spraying demonstrations as carried on in Ontario have been in progress in a N. S. orchard.—Photo furnished by G. H. Vroom.

soil can be used satisfactorily. For early asparagus, of course, a sandy soil is preferred. The ground should be heavily manured at least one year in advance and thoroughly worked. It may at the same time be producing a hoed crop, such as potatoes or corn.

In the fall it should be thoroughly and deeply fall-plowed and at planting time in spring furrows should be struck four feet apart and at least 10 inches in depth. The plants are set in the bottom of these furrows one and a half to three feet distant from each other. The furrow is filled in gradually as the plants grow through the summer. No crop can be cut from the land for three or four years, but annual manuring should be practised as well as thorough clean cultivation.

During the third or fourth season after the plants are strong enough, some cutting may be done but, of

ists now prefer lime-sulphur. The greatest objection to it in the past has been that it is difficult to prepare, but concentrated lime-sulphur is now put up commercially. The commercial insecticide is just about as cheap as home boiled lime-sulphur and can be easily applied. For the first application which should be given just before the buds start to burst, the commercial mixture should be diluted one to 10, and for later spraying one to 35. The second spraying should be given just after the petals have fallen and before the calyxes close, and the third spraying 10 to 14 days later.

In the last two sprayings poison should be added to stem the ravages of the codling moth, the lime-sulphur acting as a fungicide and preventing scale. Two pounds of lead arsenate to 40 gallons of water is the insecticide used with lime-sulphur. Paris green should not be used with this mixture.

Points on Potato Culture

W. C. McCalla, Lincoln Co., Ont.

An important point in potato culture is the selection of seed. Seed should be chosen from the best potatoes, not from the poorer ones. The ideal way is to go over the patch, choose the plants that look the healthiest, have the best foliage, and so forth, and mark them, using the best potatoes from these plants for seed. Small potatoes from a good plant are better than large ones from a poor type. Plant one eye piece, and place them in drills. Better results are obtained when planted in drills than when planted in hills.

The soil for potatoes should be well cultivated, ploughing deep, and going down to the subsoil in the fall. Then in the spring do not plow so deeply. We plant the potatoes quite early three inches deep, placing the trenches about three feet apart. Use the cultivator often, even after potatoes are nicely up. Keep the soil loose and open, but do not cultivate so

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