

board fence take it away and put it to a purpose more worthy. For a ginseng garden use, as we have said, woven wire. This gives the maximum of breeze and ventilation. Let the breezes blow upon your plants and through your garden. Get all the air and light you can under the conditions of shade described. Everybody knows that dank, ill-ventilated nooks and corners are the breeding grounds of plant diseases. Small wonder if seedlings damp off in such places—it would be a wonder if they did not. Get the air. Get the breezes. Exclude the hot sun.

Do not hoe the beds; if you do there is danger of destroying some root bud, or cutting a plant, that the frost has heaved too near to the surface. Better pull out the weeds, and cast them into the fire.

In the spring, just as you see the plants begin to break the ground, spray with Bordeaux mixture. It is possible that there might be some spores on the ground waiting to destroy your plants. The writer has not used pyrox, and therefore will not speak of it now. No doubt it will do all that is claimed for it.

#### AUTUMN CARE

Mulch in the autumn with clean, rich alluvial earth. It is not likely to be a culture for disease germs. A top dressing of such earth, one inch thick upon the beds every fall, will prove to be a great benefit to the roots. A word or two about seeds. As elsewhere stated, the seeds when ripe are a bright red. Indeed, a healthy ginseng plant with its bunch of red berries is a thing of beauty. It is generally conceded that the best way to deal with fresh, ripe seeds is to stratify them in moist sand for a year. A seed requires one year and a half to germinate; hence, if the crop be stratified for a year almost absolute protection is obtained. When seeds are required for planting, they can be sifted out of the fine sand very easily.

All seeds, whether planted in rows or broadcasted, should be covered with earth one inch and a half deep. If seeds are to be sown broadcast, sprinkle them with flour before sowing, so that an idea of the quantity on a given space may be obtained. If whitened with flour they are readily perceived on the surface, and can be covered with earth the desired depth. One thousand seeds to one yard of a five-foot bed will be sufficient. For Ontario, October is the best month for planting seeds and roots.

#### THE PROFITS

Does it pay? That depends largely upon the man. There are people growing ginseng who will never make it pay. Nevertheless in the hands of the right man it pays. At Blyth, Ontario, in the Hurnia Ginseng Gardens, with which the writer is well acquainted, careful tests have been made and results have

been obtained that warrant the statement that there is no more profitable crop grown than ginseng. The facts are in the concrete. Ginseng speculators have advertised in a most extravagant way the enormous profits to be realized from an acre of ginseng. Of course, such speculators have ginseng stock for

sale at exorbitant prices, and the advertisement has but one object—to find "takers." All of which we can well afford to pass by. The writer has no disposition, no time for, and THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST has no room for overstatements.

## Celery Storing for Winter Use

Geo. Syme, Jr., Toronto, Ont.

**C**ELERY storing is an occupation which is rather uncertain. Much depends on the condition of the celery at the time of storing and also on the weather during the winter. Good healthy celery stored about the middle of October or to the first of November should keep to the middle of April or the first of May. There are three ways of storing celery, which according to my experience, have worked out satisfactorily, namely, trenching, housing and pitting.

To keep celery in trenches, the outside leaves should be pulled off, the tops trimmed lightly and the celery packed firmly in the trenches, one spade wide and deep enough so that the tops come on a level with the ground. When the weather becomes cold cover the celery with boards laid flat on the top supported with braces to keep them from pressing too heavily on the celery. It should be watched and aired until the weather becomes severe. Then, cover the boards with a litter of straw. If you can have a little frost in the leaves at the time of covering with the litter of straw the celery will keep better.

#### HOUSING CELERY

Housing, or packing, celery in houses made for the purpose, is the most common method. The celery house should be built about fifteen feet wide, with a gable roof high enough to put in a top bench. This makes it comfortable to work in. Trap doors or air holes should be placed not further than eight feet apart. A door is necessary at each end so that a current of air can be allowed to pass through when necessary to dry up moisture. Trim the plants the same as for trenching and pack firmly in stand, standing the stocks on end after two or three rows have been packed. It would be well to bank up a little dirt to the stocks, cutting square down with the spade so as not to take up too much room. Repack once or twice during the winter.

#### PITTING

Pitting is the easiest and latest method of storing celery. It can be done on the ground where the crop is grown. No trimming is necessary. Piles are made by placing two rows, butt to butt, with the leaves turned out. The pits should not be longer than about eight feet and about three feet high.

Cover the top of the pile with a little dirt until the weather becomes severe, then cover completely with dirt and afterwards with a little straw. Allow frost to get down to the celery before the last covering. It is better, if this method is adopted, to grow the celery far enough apart, so that it can be ploughed up to and banked. Leave the celery in banks as long as the weather will permit or until about the middle of November or the first of December.

## Planting Rhubarb

Prof. W. S. Blair, Macdonald College, Quebec

Ground for rhubarb should be worked deeply at least six to eight inches, and well fertilized. The richer the ground the better the rhubarb. Four or five inches of manure worked in will not be excessive. This plant will, of course, grow on moderately rich ground, but as a rule the one thing lacking in most cases is abundant food material. A friable loam will give the best results. For early rhubarb a southern slope is advisable.

Every five years at least the plant should be divided, otherwise the crown gets dense and many small stalks will be formed. The old plant may be lifted and split up with a spade, leaving two to three eyes to a piece. Care should be taken not to break the roots of these pieces any more than possible.

Seedling plants may be planted, but as a rule these are very variable; and if you have a good strain I would advise division of the roots. Seed of the desired variety may be sown in rows three feet apart early in spring, and thinned to six inches apart, and if the ground is rich these will make fair plant for the next spring planting, or good plants for the following spring.

The plant may be set in the fall or early spring. We set the plants in rows four feet apart and four feet apart in the rows. It is a good plan to mulch the plantation with 3 to 4 inches of good rotted manure in the fall, which is worked in the following spring. Grass should not be allowed to grow, and shallow cultivation should be continued right up to fall, keeping the surface ground loose and friable.

Strip off the asparagus seeds before they ripen and burn them.