

Asparagus is a mighty sucker of nourishment. Some authorities used to insist on four feet; this, perhaps, is scarcely absolutely necessary, but it may safely be affirmed that the nearer to that depth the better, certainly two feet is desirable:—

Asparagus is a most desirable vegetable, and should have a place in every garden. It is very easily produced, and when planted in the right kind of soil will give annual crops for an indefinite number of years. A bed of it in our garden has given an abundant supply for home use, for more than a century of a century without renowing. It is the first-born product of spring, and coming as it does in a few days after the snows and frosts of winter have disappeared, is especially agreeable as well as desirable. If all knew how desirable it is, and how easily produced, no garden would be without it.

It can be propagated from seed, but in this way requires two or three years' time to get a good strong start. Better to set plants, as they are not so costly, and are easily transported. They can be procured of any market gardener. Plant early in the spring. Canover's Colossal is a good variety. Select any good soil, well drained, work it deep and fine, and make it rich. It is better that this be done in the autumn. A bed four by ten feet will furnish plenty for a single family, and have some to give to the less favored neighbors. For such a bed plant in two rows three and a half feet apart, with plants eighteen inches in rows. Open the trench or hills nine inches deep. Cover the crowns about three inches deep at first. Later on and after the plants start, and the ground gets warm, gradually fill the trenches to a level surface. Each fall afterwards make an application of manure, and in spring work the surface three or four inches deep with plow or cultivator before the plants start, to destroy grass and weeds. When grown for market the same course should be pursued, only on an extended scale. A bed should be allowed to grow without cutting till it gains a good, strong stand. When well established, the cutting should be clean up to the middle of the crown, when it should be allowed to grow in its natural way. If cut too late the plants will be weakened, and the next crop correspondingly light.

Some men are naturally good milkers. They have a firm yet gentle hand and a way of winning the cow's confidence. No man can be a good milkman who is indifferent to the cow's comfort, or who is continually startling her by hasty words or otherwise.

OUR COSY CORNER

We have before us *The Style*, a compenious fashion paper in small space, published by the "New York Domestic Fashion Company," the agent for Halifax is Mrs. O'Connor, 47 Barrington St., and from which we depend some extracts:—

Loose sailor or Garibaldi blouses are a boon to growing girls who are inclined to "run up like weeds" and present reed-like figures that are difficult to clothe appropriately and becomingly. Several blouses have been constructed in "Homo Dressmaking," that are as suitable for misses as for ladies.

The rage for owl's heads is revived for brooches and scarf-pins. A novelty most acceptable to bridesmaids is when the fan is folded so that a name appears on the side worked in steel heads, such as Edith, Mary, etc. When open, these beads blend with the pattern.

Handsome eye-glass cases are of silver lined with plush. Japanese fans, of many shapes and sizes, notably the crescent and fan ones, are to be seen in all directions, from the folds of mantle or card-drapery, to the tall grass receptacles, where they look effective put in artistly among paupias and other dried grasses.

White vests are worn in street dress. The new Directoire coats of cashmere have princess backs and short, square fronts cut just below the hips over a square-cut vest, which is finished with steel or silver buttons; corresponding galloon outlines the buttons, lower edge and collar.

Waists run to extremes, either under the armpits or long as the moral law, but the same bodice may be made to answer for both styles by means of the wide, softly folded empire sash.

Brown or dark green fine cloth or cashmere coats have chamois-colored white vests trimmed in gold. All of these directoire coats are prettily embellished with short wide revers and collars of velvet; the cuffs may either correspond with the vest or revers.

Hats will be much worn, and of the most novel kinds, turned up anywhere that suits the wearer best—three times at the back is almost a necessity. The wide leghorns—and bouquets are ingeniously introduced beneath the brim of many, while others are tied up with such wide velvet.

A new way of wearing real flowers, which has a good effect, is to arrange them in a long, graduated trail from throat to waist, and fix them to one side of a bodice which has a full vest and trimming down to the opposite side. This is a popular style at weddings, (the bride and bridesmaids sometimes wear them,) and at full dress entertainments by night and day. The vest part is near the throat, and it tapers very much. Another way is to attach a spray at the left side of the waist, just out of reach of the arm. Spruce beech, and yellow roses, or pink ones, is a favorite dinner table decoration just at present, and so is corn, poppies, and cornflowers, blue bellbells, now in profusion, honeysuckle and heather.

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