

basswood was a complete failure, but the soft maple came up nicely, and I have six thriving young trees; I tried the basswood again, but nothing appeared. The elm grows freely from seed, and when young, transplants easily, and grows very fast. I may safely say, if people would only take the trouble, they could have nice plantations at very little cost. Patience, perseverance, with good fences, and a little careful attention for five or six years, will certainly make fine trees. I keep no regular gardener, only hiring in spring or when there is some extra work on hand; and my land is by no means first-rate, some of it being close to the river and rather wet, and the rest being light loam.

The *Pinetum* I alluded to belonged to a wealthy gentleman, a Mr. Parry, and his place was called Highnam Court, situated some three miles from the fine old city of Gloucester. If I had a little of that gentleman's means and the same favourable situation, I might adopt your suggestion and start a pinetum; but I think some of your wealthy Toronto merchants might try the experiment at some of their country places north of Yorkville, where there are rolling lands. I question much, however, if our desperate winters would do with Californian, Australian, and East Indian pines, which flourished at Mr. Parry's, and some of which are very handsome. The Scotch Fir was considered the handsomest pine in the collection; of course tastes differ, but it is a noble tree.

Fergus.

F.

### Culture of Asparagus.

The asparagus is a hardy perennial, maritime plant. It is indigenous to the shores of various countries of Europe and Asia; and since its introduction into this country has become naturalized to a considerable extent. It is propagated from seed, and delights in a rich sandy alluvial soil.

The ground should be thoroughly trenched, to the depth of at least two feet, and a large portion of fine manure incorporated with it, at bottom as well as top. Sandy mud, decayed leaves, the remains of hot beds, good peat or muck, or indeed almost any other manure in not too crude a state, will answer. Where the soil is shallow, or the subsoil coarse or gravelly, the ground should not be trenched so deep; the bottom of the trench being merely dug over.

With some gardeners, it is customary to lay off the plantation in alternate beds of three and five feet in width, with an alley or path of two feet between. The object in making a difference in the width of the beds is to secure an earlier production in some than in others. As the narrow beds are sooner heated by the sun's rays than the wide ones, the crop on them is generally ready for market a few days earlier.

Where large plantations are set out, this dividing into beds is perhaps not necessary, nor is it usual. If laid out in beds, the beds should run east and west, as asparagus

pushes earlier in the season when thus planted, than where the beds run north and south.

The plants should be set not less than one foot apart, and where extra sized shoots are desired, eighteen inches. The transplanting may be performed either in April or May, the time depending upon the weather. Good plants of one year's growth are preferred by experienced growers, though some choose those of two years. The trench or furrow for transplanting should be drawn wide enough to allow the roots to be laid out without doubling; the crown of the plant being covered with about two inches of soil. Some cultivators make a ridge in the middle of the trench, astride which they set the plants. Care should be taken to have the crowns as nearly as possible on the same level. If this is not seen to, they are apt to be injured in cutting.

During summer, keep the plants clear of weeds, using the hoe carefully, so as to avoid injuring the roots. In the autumn, cut the tops level with the surface and burn; then dig the bed lightly over, and give it a dressing of good rich loam, intermixed with well digested compost, to which add salt, at the rate of two quarts to the square rod. In the spring of the second year the beds should have another careful digging. In the fall, stir again, and add an inch of soil and manure, which with previous dressings, will bring the crowns, say six inches below the surface. The same course should be pursued the third year, and if the plantation has succeeded well, some slight cutting may be done; but those who desire vigorous, strong plants and large crowns, will allow the whole crop to mature naturally, without cutting, as in the first and second year. In the fourth year, the bed may be freely cut for market.

Where it is desired to grow the roots for transplanting, the seed may be sown late in autumn, or early in spring, in drills twelve or fourteen inches apart, and about an inch in depth; of course the bed should be thoroughly spaded, well pulverized, and strongly manured, if strong roots are wanted.

### Beans.

Beans like a dry and rather light soil, though they will do well in any garden soil, if not set out too early in the spring. Nothing is gained by planting until the ground is tolerably dry and warm. The Dwarf varieties grow from twelve to eighteen inches in height, need no support, and are planted either in drills or hills. The drills should be not less than a foot apart, two inches deep, and the seed set in the drills from two to three inches apart. The usual method in hills is to allow about half a dozen plants to a hill, and the hills two by three feet apart. Rows are best for the garden. A quart of ordinary sized beans is about fifteen hundred, and will sow about two hundred and fifty feet of rows, or one hundred and fifty hills.

Hoe well, but only when dry. Running Beans are generally less hardy than the Dwarfs. The usual way of planting is in hills, about three feet apart, with the pole in the centre of the hill. A very good way is to grow the running varieties in drills, using the tallest pea brush that can be secured conveniently. When the plants reach the top of the brush, pinch off the ends. The effect will be to cause greater fruitfulness below. In a stiff soil, especially, the Lima comes up better if planted carefully with the eye down. — *Vick's Guide*.

### Bark Splitting.

To the Editor.

SIR,—An article appeared recently from Miles Young on bark splitting, and also a request that any one that has had any experience would give it. I will give you mine. I have a young orchard, five years planted, just commencing to bear; and I discovered a number of the trees with the bark split, as Mr. Young described, this spring. I examined for cause, and came to the conclusion that it was from allowing manure to lie close around the bark of the tree for some distance up from the ground. I drew a lot of manure into my orchard in the fall, and threw it from the wagon around the trees, intending afterwards to spread it; but winter set in too quick for me, and I find the only trees damaged are those where the manure was close around the bark. In further proof, I find the suckers, where there happened to be any, entirely destroyed, the bark all shrivelled to tatters, and every particle of greenness extracted from the wood. The manure was from the horse stable.

Oban.

J. M.

### Training Apple-trees in Cold Climates.

To the Editor.

SIR,—In a recent issue of your journal, and under the above heading, the question is asked whether any of your readers have seen orchards in the colder parts of the Province, which have been trained with low branches, and what is the effect, beneficial or otherwise.

I beg leave to answer that I have sold a good many apple trees throughout this county—Dundas—and have closely observed every orchard that I have met with, old or young, and I have repeatedly noticed that trees which have been allowed to branch out near the ground are *always* healthiest and thriftiest looking, and I am told that they are the best bearers. So thoroughly am I convinced that they are the best, that I am purposely training my own young orchard to grow low, and where some of the young trees have died in the trunk, and sprouted up above the graft, I am letting them grow, believing that they will eventually be better than if the original stock had not died.

THOS. E. CAUTION.

Winchester, April 12, 1870.