

HOEDS.

For growing plants for transplanting the seed may be started in boxes in the house. Hoedbeds may also be used for this purpose as well as for growing certain early vegetables.

Descriptions of these two methods are given in first part of this circular.

GARDENING ON A CITY LOT.

The man who has only a city lot to depend on will have to adopt a much more intensive form of gardening than the farmer or suburban gardener. His space is limited and the soil usually the poorest. To offset this he has an abundant supply of water, and any soil can be improved by proper treatment.

A liberalance of manure should be applied, and the whole area spaded deeply and thoroughly in the fall. All rubbish should be removed. In the spring apply a commercial fertilizer composed of 10 lb. of nitrate of soda, 15 lb. of muriate of potash, 25 lb. of acid-phosphate, at the rate of 1 oz. per square yard. Broadcast the fertilizer and rake the ground thoroughly.

PLANTING AND CULTIVATION.

Commence planting as soon as ground has been prepared, attention being paid to the crop that is suitable for planting at that season of the year. For transplanting-work it will be advisable for the city man to secure his plants from the florist. Transplanting should be done on a cloudy day and attention paid to firming the soil around the roots.

As soon as the plants are set or when the seedlings appear above ground, cultivation should be commenced and kept up through the growing season. Because of the close planting the nature of the cultivation will be very intensive.

CULTURAL METHODS FOR DIFFERENT VEGETABLES.

ASPARAGUS.

The patch may be started by sowing seed or by buying one-year-old plants. Plant seeds about 3 inches apart, and transplant the following year to permanent rows 5 feet apart, and plants 2 feet apart in the rows.

Rich loamy ground is the most desirable, and a heavy application of manure well worked into the soil is essential to ensure proper growth. When preparation is completed, plough out furrows 5 feet apart and set plant in the bottom. The crown of the plant should be 6 inches below the surface. Cover plants with 3 inches of soil, and as the shoots grow fill in with soil until surface level is reached. Keep cultivate through summer. Plough or dig up to plants in the fall, and the old stalks should be cut off and burned.

Cutting is commenced the third year after planting, and should be kept until the middle of June, but not later.

BEANS.

Beans require a fairly rich, warm, loose soil. They should not be sown until a danger from frost is over. The seed is usually sown in rows 2 to 2½ feet apart and 3 to 4 inches apart in the rows.