

## QUESTION DRAWER.

### Salt for Asparagus.

1198. SIR,—What amount of salt should be applied per square rod to an Asparagus bed, or what is the greatest amount which can be applied without injury to the plants. Is it possible to apply enough to keep down weeds without injuring the Asparagus.

GEORGE WOOD.

Erasmus, Ont.

Salt may be applied quite heavily to an asparagus bed without injury to the asparagus, indeed heavily enough to keep down weeds and grass. Some advise sowing one bushel to the square rod, as a fertilizer; but whether it has other than a mechanical effect upon plant growth is a disputed question. In addition to the salt we would recommend an annual top dressing of Nitrate of Soda, say two hundred pounds per acre, in March or April, as a specific for the encouragement of plant growth.

### Apples for Ottawa Valley.

1199. I would like very much to have your advice as to which of the following varieties of apples you would consider the most profitable to plant:—Ontario, Northern Spy or Canada Red. I am planting an apple orchard in the Ottawa Valley and have set out some McMahon's White to be top grafted with either one or two of the above sorts. The Canada Red is proving quite hardy in that section, but it is not a strong grower nor a heavy bearer. Would top working it on a strong grower overcome these defects? Is the Ontario of as good color as the Spy? Does the Canada Red sell as well as the N. Spy? I have never seen market quotations of this sort.

J. F. MORROW.

Kelton, Ont.

In our opinion the Spy is the best apple of the three. It has a name in the Chicago market, and Canadian Spys are in considerable demand; and it is constantly rising in favor in the English market.

The Ontario so much resembles the Spy that it might sell as a substitute for it, and it has the advantage of being an earlier and more regular bearer. On this account, if planting young trees, we would choose the

Ontario as the one most certain of giving returns within the first fifteen or twenty years.

But for the Ottawa Valley we question whether either one is hardy enough. If our correspondent can satisfy himself in this point, he cannot go wrong with either variety.

Canada Red is not productive enough, as a rule, to be selected for a commercial orchard, although it is a fine color, and a good packer. Very often too, it is under-size, and these days no apple is wanted under  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

1200. In an article on "The Boston Fern" which appeared in the Horticulturist a short time ago, it stated that for treating scale on the leaves, washing was the best cure. Would you recommend anything but clear water to do this or is there any preparation which would be best to use? Kindly answer the above and you will confer a favor on,

F. DAVEY DIAMOND.

Answer by Mr. W. Hunt, Hamilton.

The safest and most effectual method for the removal of "scale" from ferns and plants of a similar delicate texture, is to wash them with water in which a very small quantity of common soap has been dissolved. Apply the soapy water carefully with a small piece of sponge. By rubbing slightly, the scale can be removed without injury to the plant. Rinse or syringe the plant with clear water at once, so as to prevent any of the soapy water from clinging to the foliage. Whale oil soap and similar preparations are dangerous to use on ferns for the removal of scale.

1201. What is the best and most convenient fertilizer for a lawn? When and in what quantity should it be applied?

GEORGE WOOD.

Erasmus.

Clean stable manure, fine and rotten, is