

gine to raise water into an elevated tank. This gives us a good supply, which is piped into all the greenhouses and arranged so that we can reach all parts of the houses with hose.

Arlington White Spine is the variety used most extensively. The past season we began shipping cucumbers May 29 in 11 quart baskets, 18 to 24 in a basket. This industry is rapidly increasing in importance, and the need for experimental work is generally recognized.

Forcing Cucumbers

THE forcing of cucumbers is treated in Bulletin No. 231 of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., by Professors Craig and Hunn. It is advised that the seed be started in small pots or sod, so that the soil cannot break away from the roots of the young plant when being transferred to the benches. Soil consisting of equal parts of loam, leaf mould and sand is recommended for the pots and loam, sand and well-rotted manure for the benches. The plants should be placed two feet apart. To avoid "damping off" a handful of sand is scattered under the ball of roots and over the surface around the stem. The plants are trained on wire trellises. Stout wires are run lengthwise and finer wires connecting an upper and a lower strand used. The plants are tied to these as they grow. When the main vine has reached the desired height the tip is nipped off and the development of laterals induced. No fruit development should be encouraged until the vines are stout and strong. The fruits develop rapidly and in many cases require some support to prevent them breaking the vines down. Some growers make slings for the fruit, while others place a thin board horizontally and rest the fruits on this. The time of planting depends on when the crop is required. About two months from the time the seed is sown the crop is ready for market if no setback has been received.

Some growers do not use trellises, but those who have tried both methods prefer having the vines overhead. Considerable quantities are grown in Ontario every year.

"I always like to have the cucumber vines on wires above the benches," said Mr. J. E. Terrill, of Picton, to THE HORTICULTURIST, a short time ago. "The plants are much more easily watered, the fruits are kept out of the dirt, and the crop can be handled more readily. I like to have them ready for market by May 15, and the same vines produce a crop until the outdoor varieties come in."

I have been a regular subscriber for THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST for 24 years, and would not think of doing without it.—(W. C. Reid, Belleville, Ont.)

Planting Asparagus

Prof. H. L. Hutt, O.A.C., Guelph

I am getting ready to plant a bed of asparagus. The land is fertile, and somewhat wet, but I am having it underdrained. I cannot get the pipes down more than two feet or so. Would this soil be sufficiently deep for asparagus, and would the underdraining be likely to make the soil produce a crop early in the season? I would like to get a clearer idea as to how soil that has been drained compares with natural sandy soil, that is, in earliness of workability and in earliness of the crop produced. The distance apart for planting asparagus varies from six feet between the rows and three feet in the rows down to three feet by one foot apart. Which is the best and most practical space?—(F. P. W., Toronto.)

I have at hand no data from which to make comparison of naturally well-drained sandy soil and thoroughly tile-drained low soil on the earliness of the crops grown on them, but my impression is that the naturally well-drained soil would be earlier and far more satisfactory than the tile-drained soil. Asparagus does best on soil naturally well drained, and I would hesitate to plant it very extensively on soil which was not well drained. I am inclined to believe that with the tiles only two feet below the surface there might be danger of the roots getting into and blocking the drains.

The distance apart for planting asparagus has been variously given, both for field and garden culture. For convenience of cultivation, it is recommended for field culture that the rows be four or five feet apart and the plants two or three feet apart in the row. This, however, is more than is necessary for the full development of plants. To economize space or to get as much crop off a given area as possible, I would recommend setting the plants two feet apart, in rows three feet apart. This will give plenty of room for full development, and if the ground is liberally manured the plants will not suffer from exhaustion of the soil.

Bunching Vegetables for Profit

In discussing the best methods for bunching crops, at a meeting of the Toronto Vegetable Growers on January 6, Mr. R. Lankin claimed that much time and money was lost by the system followed by many of the growers. Putting up small bunches was claimed to entail a great loss of time, and it was pointed out that with the vegetable grower, as with other people, time means money. With almost every crop larger bunches can be made with advantage and profit to the grower.

It was asserted by Mr. Jos. Allen that many retail dealers want five cent bunches and if larger bunches are made they frequently sell for less than they are worth. Mr. Jos. Rush advised that an effort should be made to establish a

uniform system of bunching throughout Ontario. One grower does not know what another grower means by a bunch. A five cent bunch means anything. It may consist of 12 onions or there may be only six. Something definite should be decided on. He recommended that beets and carrots should be put six in a bunch, onions 12 in a bunch, and radishes 12 in a bunch. He pointed out that more care should be taken by the individual grower in grading the vegetables. It was suggested that the Association draw up a scale for bunching and submit it to the other Vegetable Growers' Associations. Something should be done to adopt the same system throughout the Province.

Mr. Delworth remarked that bunching as practised by many growers is very expensive, and in many cases more could be had for the same crop if it were sold in bulk. Much of the bunched good was sold at a loss when labor is counted in. The time required for washing and tying ran away with the profit. A great many growers get into the way of bunching and do not change their methods because they have never figured it out. It was suggested by Mr. Geo. Syme that the system of bunching should be regulated by the merchants to whom the goods are to be sold. The high-class butchers and grocers want bunches that will sell two or three bunches for 10 cents, whereas peddlers want everything in five cent bunches.

The Onion Bed

In an interview with THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, Mr. George Benner, of Burlington, said, "The onion bed should not be ploughed in the spring as the ground is much more easily kept clean. I use plenty of manure and plough it in in the fall. If the bed is slightly rounded up to keep it free from water and prevent baking of the surface soil, better results are sure to come."

"Snow or frost will not hurt onions. I sow early Globe Denvers as early as the ground can be worked. The best yield can be had from planting in rows 12 inches apart. These can be cultivated readily with the hand cultivator. Plenty of work is needed to keep the onions growing steadily". "One of the main things in growing onions," says Mr. Benner, "is to have the crop ripened and cured before rainy weather comes in the fall."

Peppers need rich sandy loam and frequent cultivation. I grew 8,000 plants last year. They were started in the greenhouse about the middle of February. One transplanting is sufficient. After all danger of frost is past I plant them in rows two and a half feet apart, and one foot apart in the row.—(Geo. Benner, Burlington, Ont.)