

made moderately rich ; a vigorous plant is carefully set out so that its crown will be about four inches below the surface-level ; weeds are kept down by shallow surface cultivation, and in the fall, after the tops are fully matured and dead, the surface for a circle of five feet in diameter is covered with rich and well-rotted manure. As early in the spring as possible this manure is well-forked into the surface, and the starting weeds kept down by shallow hoeing until the plant has made sufficient growth to take care of itself. The third season the treatment is the same as in the second, especial care being taken to take out any seedling asparagus plants which may spring up, they being treated as the worst of weeds. The fourth season the harvest commences, though if the plants have made a good growth a few cuttings are made the third year, but it is considered a better practice to wait until the fourth, in order that the plants may become well established. The manure is spaded in as early in the season as possible, and as soon as the first shoots appear at the surface the soil is heaped over the crown of the plant in a mound about a foot high, which serves to blanch the growing shoots. In gathering, the shoots are broken as far as possible below the surface. The covering soil being friable from its abundant manuring enables one to secure much longer shoots than if it were level. Care is taken to remove all the shoots at each picking and not to prolong the season far into the hot weather, so that the plants may have a chance to make a good growth in preparation for the next season's crop. At the close of the season the mound of earth is levelled with the surface, and about two quarts of fresh wood-ashes and a handful of salt are scattered about each plant and hoed into the surface. The treatment given the fourth year is repeated, and the shoots gain in number and size as the plant increases in age.—Garden and Forest.

THE FRUIT HOUSE.



FRUIT house entirely above ground can be put up at not a very large cost, in which an even temperature can be maintained, and which will keep out the frost, as follows : Prepare a good tight foundation of stone for the building. Use 2 x 4 inch studding for the sides. The sides should be about eight feet high. Sheath on the outside of the studding with inch lumber, and cover this with building paper, and then on the outside of this with another course of studding, sheathing and building paper. Do this until the wall has three air spaces. The roof is constructed the same way to protect from heat as well as frost. The writer has recently constructed a cellar and fruit house over it, as follows : The floor between the cellar and the fruit room above is laid with 2 x 8 joists, sealed above and below with inch boards. The space between is filled with sawdust. The studding for the sides are 2 x 6, eight feet high. Outside it is sheathed lengthwise with inch lumber, and on this a layer of building paper. Then comes