

deep while the ground is cold, wet, and heavy, they are apt to rot; when sown too shallow, in a dry time, and late in the season, there may not be sufficient moisture to sprout them, or they may be dried up by dry winds or a hot sun after they have germinated. Sometimes insects destroy them before or immediately after their appearance above ground, so that the complaints occasionally made by the inexperienced are not always to be attributed to the quality of the seeds.

*Soaking* in warm water twenty-four or forty-eight hours, and then rolling in plaster or ashes will very much hasten the germination and growth of hard and dry seeds. It will give the plants a start of the weeds, and lessen a good deal the labour of cultivation.

*To Prove Seeds*, place a few in a pot of earth and keep it warm and moist. Onion seed tied in a cloth and put first into cold water and boiled half an hour, will sprout in that time if it is good.

*Transplanting* should be done just at evening, or immediately before or soon after a rain. Make the holes with the *dibble*, hold the plant in one hand, and with the other bear the point of the dibble into the ground by the side of it, and press the earth closely to the *bottom* of the pot, taking care not to bury the heart of the plant. Give each plant a gill of water about the root, and shade with a shingle in sunny weather.

*Watering*.—The best time to water plants is at sunrise or just at evening, and always use rain water when to be had. If well water must be used it should be exposed to the sun a day or two, until it rises to the temperature of the air, before it is applied. Water may be given to the roots at any time, but never should be sprinkled over the leaves in a hot sun.

*Thinning* is a very important operation. Everything ought to be thinned very early, even in the seed leaf if the plants stand too close. Another thinning may be necessary when they are more advanced, to give them room to grow stocky. All plants when crowded together, run up tall and slender; such never succeed so well.

*Hoeing and Weeding*.—It ought to be remembered that it is easiest to kill weeds when they are small, and that it is better to hoe for this purpose soon after, rather than immediately before, a rain. It ought also to be remembered that Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Brocoli, require *deep*, and that Onions and Turnips require *shallow* hoeing; that Beets, Carrots, and Turnips will put out side roots and grow raggy if hoed deep after they are nearly grown; and that *earthing up* is more proper for fibrous than for carrot-rooted plants.

*The Rotation of Crops* ought to be regarded in planting a garden. Fusiform or carrot-

shaped roots should follow fibrous-rooted ones, and every succeeding crop should be as dissimilar to the preceding one as possible. Onions are an exception.

*Frost*.—Plants are more likely to be injured by frost in a moist than in a dry atmosphere, and immediately after the ground has been worked. When frozen, plants may sometimes be preserved from destruction by a copious watering in the morning, before they are exposed to the sun. In the spring and fall, when frosts are to be expected, look out for a severe one the first night after the clearing up of a rain storm, with the wind changing to west or northwest.

*Insects* are troublesome and sometimes very destructive. Plaster of Paris, snuff, ashes, or soot sifted on Cucumbers and Squashes when wet with dew, is very useful against the *striped bug*. Lime, road dust, ashes, or snuff, scattered over young Cabbages and Turnips, will sometimes prevent the ravages of the *black fly*. Rolling the ground after sowing, answers a good purpose, but the best preventive is a thorough sprinkling of the plants just at night with whale oil soap suds, in proportion of one pint of soap to seven and a half gallons of water. This will kill *cabbage lice* and all other *aphides*. It is sure death to all tender insects when forcibly applied with a garden syringe or rubbed on with a brush. For the want of the whale oil soap, strong soft soap suds may be used. Salt is sometimes sown in the drills with onion seed to drive away the *grub*. Fine salt strewn broadcast over Cabbages is the best application we know of for destroying the little *green cabbage worm*. Ducks, chickens, and toads destroy a host of insects, when suffered to inhabit the garden.

### ASPARAGUS.

Large Giant.

*CULTURE*.—Asparagus beds should be well drained, by a layer of stones, oyster shells, or bones, on which lay brushwood cuttings and some turf. On this make the bed of sandy loam, stable manure, and coarse sea or river sand, (but avoid yellow or brown sand containing iron). Lay this on the drainage bottom two feet thick, then put the roots on it, in rows eighteen inches apart, and a foot apart in the rows, cover four inches with same compost. Before Winter cover the bed with leaves and manure about four or six inches. In Spring, fork in the manure slightly and give a good dressing of salt.

### ENGLISH BROAD BEANS.

Broad Windsor, Taylor's Windsor, Monarch Long Pod, Early Mazagan.

*CULTURE*.—*Broad* or *Windsor Beans* do not succeed well in this climate, the summer heat coming on them before they are podded, which causes the blossoms to drop off. The best soil to grow them in is a rich stiff clay, and on a