

Both these beetles pass the winter in the adult stage and are ready to attack the asparagus shoots as soon as they appear above ground in the spring; these they gnaw and spoil for table use, and the Blue species deposits upon them its shiny black eggs which are attached by the tip to the plants. (Fig 21). Later on the eggs of both species may be found upon the growing plants, and the larvæ soon appear. Those of the Blue beetle are dark olive gray grubs, which feed openly upon the foliage; the grubs of the 12-spotted are yellowish or somewhat orange in color, feeding at first upon the tender foliage, but boring into and devouring the pulp of the seed capsules as soon as they are large enough to attack. The life cycle of both kinds requires only six or seven weeks for its completion and we therefore find all through the season till sharp frosts come in the autumn, eggs, larvæ and beetles in great numbers at the same time; the pupal stage is passed beneath the surface of the ground.



Fig. 19. Blue Asparagus beetle, larva and eggs—magnified.



Fig. 20. Twelve spotted Asparagus beetle—magnified.



Fig. 21. Blue Asparagus beetle, larva and eggs on shoot.

**Remedies:** The simplest and most efficient remedy is to let poultry have the run of the beds; they will devour both beetles and grubs and will not touch the asparagus.

Where this is not practicable, the young shoots should be dusted with fresh air-slaked lime when the morning dew is on the plants; this, of course, should be washed off before cooking. At the same time some of the shoots may be allowed to grow and attract the beetles which may then be killed with Paris green or arsenate of lead. If the plants have many eggs upon them, they should be cut off and burnt and others left to grow in their place.