

broken, spread round it; cover these with one or two inches of earth, making it adhere to their extremities by a little pressure; then, cover with manure, but without covering then crown, and level the soil—there should be reserved between the lines of trenches a little earth to be levelled the second year.

It is well, after planting, to place a stake by which to recognize where the root is set, so that it may not be injured.

The best season to plant is the month of April or the commencement of May.

Never plant in rainy weather, or the roots will rot.

Subsequent care.—The first year, weed and clean the beds, and water them when the season is too dry. In October, at the latest, pull down the little mounds, and top-dress the soil with manure, leaving it thus for the winter. As soon as the weather permits in the spring, bury the manure with a flattened digging fork, clearing away carefully the dead branches, leaving none round the crowns. Bring back the earth which has been mellowed by the frost and which will give an easy passage to the growth of asparagus. Asparagus should not be gathered after the end of June, so as to save the succeeding crops. In gathering asparagus, it is best to break it off with the fingers.

About the third year, a crop may be cut, but only one or two heads of asparagus from one hill. The fourth year, there may be a full cutting, provided the land be heavily manured afterwards. The third year cut the largest asparagus only. We should not cut the asparagus stalks while they are growing, for we thus destroy a part of the next year's crop. It should only be cut when the leaves have turned yellow and have ceased to grow. When we want extra fine plants, pluck off the seeds as soon as formed.

Calendar of work for each month

January and February.—Look over the fruit room, pack and send off the fruit sold. Tread the snow round the base of the trees to prevent the mice from eating the heart.

March.—Prune the orchard, and do not fail to level and destroy the rings formed by the eggs of the caterpillars. Tread down the snow at the foot of the trees as before.

April.—At the beginning of the month, those who have trees in cellars may prune them and get them ready to plant. Begin planting as soon as the snow has disappeared and the land is dry

enough. Unmound the apple trees; prepare the land for asparagus.

May.—Finish planting. Unearth the vines and trellis them, level the earth so as to cover the roots. Apply Bordeaux mixture to prevent the Black Knot on the plums and for the apple scab. Employ the American grafting wax to cure the wounds made all round the stem by the mice. To re-establish the circulation of sap, forcibly interrupted by the disappearance of the bark, take a piece of a one-year-old branch, a little longer than the width of the bark destroyed, and cut the two extremities like the mouth of a whistle. Slide one into the upper side and the other into the lower side of the injured bark: if required, the bark may be split to facilitate the operation. So long as the splits are on the same generator (*sap vessel*).

The two extremities of the branch being fastened to the two edges of the wound, the sap can circulate to the extremities of the roots in passing through this branch. If the tree gnawn is large, several of these may be introduced.

June.—Finish all planting that is not done, though it be too late; prune the orchard, pinch all premature shoots of the vine, to favour the development of the leading one. Sprinkle the gooseberries and currants with hellebore to destroy caterpillars.

July.—Make a second application of Bordeaux mixture to destroy insects and fungi. Apply coal oil emulsion against the greenfly, pinch the buds of the vine. Thin the fruit of overloaded apple trees; put props under branches which are bent by the weight of fruit. Gather cherries, gooseberries and currants.

August.—Clean the orchard, gather the first summer apples, yellow transparent, Tetofsky, etc.; prepare the ground and plant strawberries. Prune the fruit branches of the vine to two leaves above the last bunch.

September.—Gather the last summer and the autumn fruits; weed and hoe again, if the summer has been dry.

October.—Gather autumn and winter fruit in fine dry weather. Commence preparing the land for planting the following spring. Those who like to get in their trees in the fall, will receive them this month and store them in the cellar. Earth up and lime the trees in the orchard, and cut off the broken branches. Gather the grapes, prune