

The Best Asparagus in the World Has Been Grown in this District, and on this Foundation a Great Industry Ought to Be Built

EVERY FARMER OUGHT TO GROW ASPARAGUS SAYS PROFESSOR BOUQUET, OF THE O. A. C.

It Will Grow Anywhere in Oregon, When Properly Put Out, and It Will Last for Many Years, and There Is No Chance of a Failure

(The interested reader of the following article—and every farmer and gardener should be interested; and every city resident, too, who has even a small garden plot available, will note the last sentence. The attention of every interested person is called to the fact that there is printed in this issue the regular bulletin (Circular 84) of the Oregon Agricultural college on "Asparagus Culture," the author of the bulletin being also Professor Bouquet; and there is also printed excerpts from the United States department of agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 829 on "Asparagus.")

Asparagus on the Farm.
(By A. G. B. Bouquet.)
I have always made a practice of encouraging the farmer who wants to have a good farm vegetable garden to include as a part of that garden a bed of asparagus.

There are a number of reasons why such a crop should be found on every farm.

First, asparagus is a vegetable, which, once planted, is good for at least 12 or 15 years growing in the small place and annually producing many stalks of the best quality. There are many plantations or beds which are considerably older than 15 years which are yet producing profitably.

Second, asparagus is one of the first vegetables available for use in the spring when other fresh vegetables are quite scarce, in fact, with the exception of rhubarb, broccoli and green onions, there is very little to be taken from the garden during asparagus cutting season; hence its greater value.

Third, there is hardly any chance of the crop being a failure either partial or complete. You can't keep it from making a crop and the only thing that causes damage early in the cutting season is the frost at night.

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which may cut down some of the tender stalks. However, the bed continues to bear so abundantly later on when the warmer weather comes that any little loss through freezing is quickly forgotten.

Fourth, asparagus adapts itself to and grows well in quite a variety of soils and under very different climatic conditions. No part of the state has such climatic conditions as will prevent asparagus from doing well. While the warm, sandy loam soils are the best commercial lands for asparagus, yet if a bed is properly prepared and fertilized and the plants are given good care most any soil of reasonable fertility and good tilth will be suitable. Consequently

there is hardly a farm which can excuse itself on that score.

Fifth, the first cost or outlay for plants is very small considering the yearly income later on. Plants cost about 1 cent apiece and thus plants enough for a farm plantation need not cost over \$1.50.

Sixth, it is not usually possible to find on the general market asparagus that has the fine, tender quality which the home grown and freshly cut asparagus always has. This is accounted for by the fact that the stalks when subjected to the air undergo a chemical change and form a lignin or woody substance which is

(Continued on page 4.)

ASPARAGUS CULTURE, AS OUTLINED BY THE O. A. C.

The Method of Planting, the Variety Usually Grown, the Way the Plot Should Be Prepared, and the Best Way to Fertilize the Soil

(Following is Circular 84 of the Oregon Agricultural college on "Asparagus Culture," the author being A. G. B. Bouquet, professor of vegetable gardening.)

Asparagus Culture.
Variety—The Palmetto, or any other well known variety would be suitable for planting. Good one or two-year-old plants can be secured from any seed or nursery firm in Oregon, or the plants can be grown from seed, but of course this will delay the permanent setting of the plantation for one year.

Planting—For quick returns from an asparagus plantation, it is best to fall plow the land, applying a quantity of manure at that time. An asparagus plantation should be put on land which is somewhat sandy, as asparagus produced early in the season is worth more and has straighter stalks. The plantation should be put on a piece of land where it will not be disturbed, as it will remain there a good many years. The life of some of the asparagus plantations in the state may be 25 years. The soil should be as rich as possible so the plantation may make the greatest growth possible during its early stages. Large quantities of manure should be applied not only in the fall but also in the spring.

If the manure is to be applied in the spring as well as in the fall it will be necessary to make a trench which will be about twelve inches deep, in order that a small amount of well rotted horse and cow manure may be thrown in and covered with an inch of soil. The crowns should

then be planted on this, setting them seven or eight inches below the surface of the soil.

In setting the crowns in the spring, the root system should be spread out, not allowed to grow vertically, but horizontally, so that the crown lies somewhat flat upon the surface in the trench. These trenches are made by plowing twice in the same furrow and throwing the dirt out of the depth mentioned above.

When the land is in suitable condition in the spring it should be furrowed out so that the rows are four or five feet apart. Furrows can be made so the crowns will be set down eight inches below the surface of the ground.

If manure is not applied in the fall, it would be a good plan to put a good coating of manure in the trenches underneath the crown and then to put an inch or so of soil on top of the manure, setting the crowns in the rows two to two and one-half or three feet apart. If the soil is inclined to be very rich the plants will make an extensive growth the first year and later on will soon occupy the place in and between the rows. Only a small amount of soil should be placed over the crowns after they are set. The remaining dirt should be thrown up to the plants, as the stalks continue to increase in height. Good cultivation should be given all summer in order to preserve moisture and to cause the plants to make as rapid growth as possible.

One hundred plants should be sufficient for the use of the average family.

ASPARAGUS PACKING IS NOW GOING ON IN CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Valley Cannery Men Expect to Put Up 750,000 Cases This Year, and Green Asparagus Is Going East in Heavy Shipments

Asparagus packing is now in full swing in the California Delta district, and Sacramento valley cannery men expect to put up 750,000 cases of the popular vegetable this year.

Green asparagus is going east from there in large quantity, and heavy shipments will continue for another week or ten days. Shipping of spinach to the east from that section has ended because of the maturing of

the vegetable in the eastern growing districts.

"A bed of asparagus is known to have given continuous service for more than 30 years, and asparagus is one of the first spring vegetables." (The foregoing is a miscellaneous paragraph that has been going the rounds of the press in this country. The reader will note, in this issue, that in the Savage gardens, at the eastern edge of Salem, on the Garden road, a patch of asparagus 30 years old was recently plowed up.—Ed.)

PROFITABLE ASPARAGUS GROWING IN SALEM SUBURBS

In the Savage Gardens, on the Famous Garden Road, an Asparagus Bed 30 Years Old Was Recently Plowed Up—Three Essentials of Asparagus Growing for Market

Asparagus has been grown in the Savage gardens, on the Garden road, at the eastern edge of Salem, for thirty-five years.

Savage Bros. are now the proprietors and operators of these gardens—J. W. and Ben H. Savage. The Savage gardens have been supplying Salem with vegetables and fruits for 43 years. H. W. Savage, father of the present proprietors, started the business.

Recently Savage Bros. took out a bed of asparagus that had been set out 30 years before. The rows were four feet apart, and the roots had formed in a solid mass clear across, as was shown when the bed was plowed up. The Palmetto variety is the kind the Savage Bros. grow and have grown from the first. It is a

green variety, which they consider the best for the local market. It is sturdy, hardy, and, with proper care, a sure yielder. Savage Bros. have tried the California white varieties, and they have not found them profitable yielders.

They are now trying out a small bed of Giant Argenteuil.

They have now about three acres in asparagus.

Owing to the backward season, asparagus is more than two weeks late this year. They will make their first cuttings at the beginning of next week.

Ordinarily they begin the 1st to the 10th of April, and cutting lasts till the 15th of June and some years till the 1st of July. When the plants start to "bleeding," they quit cutting;

for then the cutting takes the vitality from the plants.

They do not cut till the fourth year—the fourth year from the plant. In home gardens cutting may be safely commenced sooner. But they raise asparagus for the market, and they want to be sure to have a full crop one year after year.

One of the main things, they say, is to have the land well drained.

There are three main things: First—plenty of manure; second—good drainage; third—sunshine. Asparagus needs sunshine, like corn.

They put on the stable manure in the fall, eight to 10 inches thick, over the rows. Then they plow between the rows with a 14-inch plow with two horses, throwing the ground up onto the rows. This leaves dead furrows between the rows for winter drainage, and they keep the ends of the rows open, to insure drainage. In February they go over the ground with a spiketooth harrow and smooth and pulverize it. They also use salt; every other year. Every year is better, as it is good for the asparagus plants, and it helps to keep down the weeds.

The Savage Bros. have 43 acres in all; with about 20 acres in garden and berries. Strawberries mostly, raised for the plants, principally. They have mostly Magoons, Oregons, Gold Dollars and Marshals.

They have about two acres in rhubarb.

They have two hot houses, each 100 feet long and 26 feet wide.

They raise under glass mostly winter lettuce and cucumbers. They have raised some tomatoes.

Thus they have something for the market from their gardens every day in the year, and it keeps them and some hired help busy all the time.

J. W. Savage, of the firm of Savage Bros. told a Statesman reporter yesterday that he regards asparagus as a good, profitable crop. However, they have not kept a close record. The reader will note that the department of agriculture places the production at all the way from 1500 to 4000 bunches an acre. Savage Bros. probably raise about as many bunches to the acre as any grower. They sell by the dozen bunches, and the price

ASPARAGUS ACCORDING TO UNCLE SAM AS TOLD IN HIS GOVERNMENT BULLETIN

Freshly Cut and Immediately Served, It Is One of the Most Delicate, Wholesome and Appetizing Products of the Home Garden; and Growing for Market Is a Profitable Industry, and the Demand Is Increasing in This Country, Especially for the Canned Article

(The following are excerpts from Farmers' Bulletin 829, United States department of agriculture, the date being August, 1917, and the author Wm. A. Taylor, chief of the bureau of plant industry.)

Extent and Value of the Industry.

Asparagus freshly cut and immediately served is one of the most delicate, wholesome, and appetizing products of the home garden. Its early appearance in the spring, together with the fact that an asparagus bed once established will produce for many years, makes it of special importance in the home as well as in the market garden and on the truck farm.

The production of asparagus for market and for canning is an important industry. According to the census report of 1910 the asparagus crop of the United States in 1909 was valued at \$2,246,631. Seven states produced over 75 per cent of this crop.

Asparagus is increasing in popularity, and in all probability the value of the crop at present is considerably in excess of the figures given for the year 1909.

J. W. Savage thinks it has averaged for them about 80 cents a dozen bunches; the bunches weighing about three-fourths of a pound each. Just now, the price in Salem, to growers, is 18 to 20 cents a pound, according to another grower, quoted elsewhere in this issue.

J. W. Savage says he regards the green asparagus as better than the white; more tender, and with more of a real asparagus flavor.

WOODBURN MAN GROWS SOME GOOD ASPARAGUS

He Is Modest About It, However, and Insists That His Experience Is Still in the Experimental Stage

(A Salem grocer, Edward Schunke of the Roth Grocery Co., told the Salem Statesman editor that E. E. Settlementier of Woodburn sends some of the best asparagus grown in Oregon to the Salem market. So the slogan editor wrote to Mr. Settlementier, asking him to tell of his experience with asparagus. The following is his answer.)

Editor Statesman:

I am sorry that I am not able to give you the information asked for

regarding the asparagus culture, as my experience is still in the experimental stage, as I have not yet harvested a full crop.

As for a commercial product, a small patch will supply the needs of a good many people. And as for canning, I will say it is an excellent product for home canning, which is as far as my experience goes in that line.

—E. E. Settlementier
Woodburn, Or., April 20, 1920.

SALEM PREFERS A GREEN ASPARAGUS, THAT IS TENDER

Sue Sun Is a Grower, in His Market Gardens Near the Kaiser School House, on the River Road

Sue Sun, market gardener, whose place is about four miles north of Salem, on the River road, a quarter of a mile below the Kaiser school house, has been raising asparagus for two years. The asparagus has been out four years.

He commenced cutting asparagus on Tuesday of this week. He is selling in the Salem market, and is getting 18 to 20 cents a pound as an opening price.

He has a white variety; that is, it is white when cut under the ground, but he says this market prefers green asparagus, so he cuts most of his above the ground. He says it gives an asparagus, cut in that way, that is tenderer and of better flavor.

He says he has made no estimate on costs or profits per acre, but he thinks asparagus is an easy and a good and profitable crop to grow.

WASHINGTON ASPARAGUS A HIGH YIELDING STRAIN

It Is Rust-resistant, Vigorous, High Yielding and Large, and Has Been Developed from Millions of Plants Tested—Grows Rapidly, Therefore Is Tender

(The following was written by Prof. A. G. Bouquet, of the Oregon Agricultural college, for the garden department of the Pacific Homestead, of which he is editor. It appeared in last week's issue of the Homestead, which is the farm paper of wide and rapidly growing circulation, published in the Statesman building.)

Washington Asparagus.
This heading does not mean that the asparagus came from Washington state.

Washington asparagus is a strain which has been produced under the direction of the bureau of plant industry of the United States department of agriculture. It is a rust-resistant, vigorous, high yielding strain of Giant asparagus. The plants represented in its pedigree of the last three generations are of the best found in a ten years' search among millions of plants tested. By among millions of the ones that have produced offspring uniform, rust-resistant, high yielding, of large size and rapid growth, all of which qualities indicate tenderness.

A more uniform type has not been seen among other so-called rust-resistant varieties. Thorough investigations have been made of Palmetto, Argenteuil, and Reading Giant, none of them having been found sufficiently uniform to justify their adoption as the basis for breeding work.

A bed of asparagus must be considered in the light of a permanent investment and for that reason it is very important that the plants first set be the best obtainable.

In spite of the fact that seedmen specify two year old roots as being superior (and they do cost more money for they have had to be cared for two years), yet in the end the one-year-old roots are advised and those who give this advice have well grounded proof that the one-year-old will outyield the two-year-old, if the same care be given to each.

Washington asparagus roots and seed can be obtained from the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., or the department will advise where supplies can be obtained if they are exhausted.

Asparagus is one of the earliest and most wholesome vegetables and should be grown in every home garden where it can be produced successfully. As a canned product asparagus is one of the best, because it retains its flavor better than most other vegetables.

The growing of asparagus for market is a profitable industry when the crop is properly cared for and intelligently handled. The asparagus for market might be enlarged considerably, as the demand for asparagus is increasing.

A well-established asparagus bed should produce profitable crops for 15 or 20 years, but in most instances better results are secured when the plantings are renewed every 8 or 10 years.

year 1909. While asparagus long has been an important feature of the home vegetable garden, recent years have witnessed an important extension of commercial plantations.

Soils for Asparagus and Their Preparation.

Asparagus can be grown on nearly all kinds of soils, but a sandy loam is preferred. In growing asparagus for home use the type of soil is not as important as a convenient location for the bed. As a rule, the home supply of asparagus is grown in the garden, which should be located near the house.

For the commercial planting of asparagus a light soil should be selected, because of its earliness and the ease with which the crop can be cultivated. If the soil is not naturally deep and well drained it should be deeply plowed, subsoiled, and drained by means of tile or open ditches. On land that does not wash badly the soil should be plowed in the autumn or winter in order to get the benefit of freezing and thawing. Soil plowed in the fall should not be harrowed until spring. Where there is danger of serious erosion, plowing should not be done until spring. Before planting, the soil should be thoroughly pulverized by disking, harrowing, and planking or rolling. Stirring at frequent intervals until the asparagus is planted will keep down weeds and hold the soil in a loose, friable condition.

Manures and Fertilizers.
As asparagus is grown mostly on soils deficient in humus, barnyard or stable manure is the most valuable fertilizer. The manure adds both plant food and humus and increases the water-holding capacity of the soil. Where coarse manure is used, one land to be planted to asparagus it should be applied broadcast at the rate of 20 to 40 tons per acre and plowed under, preferably in the fall. Well-rotted manure is usually applied after the land is plowed, and then thoroughly mixed with the soil by harrowing.

Where no manure is available it is a good plan to plow under some green crops during the season preceding the planting of the asparagus. Some leguminous crop, such as cowpeas, soy beans, or clover, should be plowed under if practicable, as these crops furnish both humus and nitrogen. Rye, oats, or any other grain crop will furnish humus and may be used where it is impracticable to grow a legume. The grain crops, however, do not furnish plant food that was not already in the soil.

In addition to the manure or cover crop it is advisable to use some commercial fertilizer, especially one furnishing phosphorus and potash. The manure does not furnish sufficient phosphorus and potash, and the cover crops where legumes are used do not provide any plant food except nitrogen. For an average asparagus soil 100 to 150 pounds of nitrate of soda, 500 to 1000 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate, and 150 to 300 pounds of muriate of potash to the acre will give good results when applied in connection with manure or leguminous cover crop is turned under, some additional nitrogen should be used in the form of cottonseed meal, tankage, dried blood, or

fish scrap. The nitrate of soda furnishes available nitrogen for early growth and the organic fertilizers supply the nitrogen for later needs.

In using large quantities of commercial fertilizer (1000 pounds or more per acre) before planting the asparagus it is best to apply it broadcast. For amounts under 1000 pounds it might be best to apply the fertilizer in the row or in a strip along the row. In either case the fertilizer should be thoroughly mixed with the soil by harrowing or cultivating.

After the asparagus plantation is established it should be fertilized every year. A common practice among market gardeners is to apply 20 to 40 tons of manure to the acre broadcast over the bed during the autumn or winter. This manure is usually disked into the soil early in the spring. In addition to the manure many growers apply nitrate of soda broadcast at the rate of 200 pounds to the acre. This practice is of doubtful value, as most of the plant food used in producing asparagus shoots is stored in the roots during the preceding season's growth. A better practice is to apply a good complete fertilizer at the rate of 1,000 pounds to 1,500 pounds per acre at the end of the cutting season. For this application a fertilizer containing 2 to 4 per cent of nitrogen, 6 to 8 per cent of phosphoric acid, and 5 to 8 per cent of potash will give good results. Muriate of potash and kaini are preferable to sulphate of potash. Where the land is heavily manured the nitrogen may be left out of the fertilizer mixture. The fertilizer applied at the end of the cutting season should be distributed broadcast over the bed or in a strip on either side of the row and thoroughly mixed with the surface soil by harrowing or cultivating. It should be borne in mind that no amount of commercial fertilizer will make up for a deficiency in humus; in fact, large quantities of fertilizers are justified only where the soil is well supplied with humus.

It has long been believed by many growers that common salt is essential in asparagus growing. This belief is undoubtedly due to the fact that wild asparagus grows along the seacoast in soils containing considerable salt. Some growers and investigators believe that the chlorine in the salt is the valuable element, and this belief is apparently borne out by the fact that muriate of potash gives better results on asparagus than sulphate of potash. Where either muriate of potash or kaini is used, salt is not necessary, but in the absence of one of these it is advisable to apply 300 to 400 pounds of salt to the acre.

Growing Asparagus Roots.
Well-grown 1-year-old asparagus roots are best for planting purposes. These may be secured from a nurseryman, or they may be grown at home. When the grower produces plants at home he can make his own selection, discarding all small, inferior roots and using only strong, healthy ones. In this way the development of the asparagus bed will be more uniform than where the plants are purchased, and no selection is made. For growing the roots a rich sandy or loam soil should be selected. The seed should be sown 1 to 2 inches apart in rows 15 to 18 inches apart for hand cultivation and 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart if horse cultivation is to be given, and it should be covered to the depth of 1 1/2 inches. After the plants are well established the seedlings should be thinned to stand about 3 inches apart, only the strongest plants being left in the row. Throughout the season the soil should be kept well cultivated and free from weeds.

Planting Asparagus Roots.
In most sections of the country asparagus is usually planted in the spring, but in the south it is sometimes planted in the autumn. In the north spring planting is preferred, because roots planted in the autumn may be injured by freezing before they become well established. Where spring planting is followed, the roots should be planted as early as the weather and soil conditions will permit.

After the soil has been thoroughly prepared, deep furrows are opened by

(Continued on page 4.)

DATES OF SLOGANS IN DAILY STATESMAN

(In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)

Loganberries, Oct. 9.	Goats, March 11, 1920.
Prunes, Oct. 16.	Beans, March 13, 1920.
Dairyming October 22.	Paved highways, March 25, 1920.
Flax, October 30.	Broccoli, April 1, 1920.
Filberts, Nov. 6.	Silos, April 8.
Walnuts, Nov. 13.	Legumes, April 15.
Strawberries, Nov. 20.	Asparagus, April 22.
Apples, November 27.	Grapes, April 29.
Raspberries, December 4.	Poultry, May 6.
Mint, December 11.	Hogs, May 13, 1920.
Great Cows, December 18.	Paper Mill, May 20.
Blackberries, December 25.	Land, May 27, 1920.
Cherries, January 1, 1920.	National Advertising, June 3.
Pears, January 8, 1920.	Sheep, June 10.
Gooseberries, January 15, 1920.	Dehydration, June 17.
Corn, January 22, 1920.	Hops, June 24.
Celery, January 29.	Drug garden, July 1.
Spinach, February 5, 1920.	(Back copies of Salem Slogan editions of the Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 5c each, mailed to any address, if ALL are taken; price for first 15 copies, 10c each.)
Onions, February 12, 1920.	
Beets, February 19, 1920.	
Bees, February 26, 1920.	
Mining, March 4, 1920.	

(It will interest some people to know that these back copies are selling fast—that, nearly every day, orders are received from near and distant points for the whole series. They will be sold out before the fifty-two Slogans are completed, without doubt.—Ed.)