

Of Interest to Farmers

WINTER ASPARAGUS IS NO LONGER A LUXURY

At Least Not When Canned at Home in Season—Prove It—Difficult but Care Needed.

The housewife who longs for asparagus tips during the winter months but feels that, except as an occasional luxury, the commercially canned ones are too expensive may successfully can them at home, say authorities at the state college of agriculture.

The asparagus must be freshly gathered and special care needs be taken in cleaning it to remove all particles of dirt that may be lodged around the scales on the stalks and around the tips. Only the tender portions should be canned. Rapid handling at every stage of the process and absolute cleanliness seem to be necessary to insure the best results.

After they have been thoroughly washed the tips are tied in bundles and stood in boiling water. They should be blanched or boiled for two minutes, then plunged into cold water and removed immediately. The blanching process, while said not absolutely to be necessary if the asparagus be fresh, aids in cleansing it and also in setting the color.

How To Pack
The asparagus is packed at once into clean hot jars, the jars are filled with boiling water, a teaspoon of salt is added to each pint, and the rubbers and covers are adjusted and partially sealed.

Because asparagus is more liable to spoil than many other vegetables, the use of the pressure canner is recommended. Cooking for forty minutes under ten pounds of steam pressure has been found the most satisfactory method.

The "acid method" has been suggested if a pressure canner is not available. By using one tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice to each pint of asparagus, processing for one and one-half hours in boiling water has proven sufficient.

With either method, the jars should be removed promptly from the canner or bath and sealed.

Save Stalks For Soup
The tough ends of the stalk not canned may be saved for soup. The pieces should be cooked in a little water as possible until they are soft enough to press through a sieve. The pulp is then put into clean hot jars and one teaspoon of salt added to each pint. Grated onion or celery may be added if desired. After the rubbers and covers have been adjusted and partially sealed, the jars should be processed for forty minutes under ten pounds of steam pressure, or boiled in a hot-water bath for three hours.

The jars should be removed from the canner or bath at the proper time and sealed at once.

This puree may be used as the foundation for cream of asparagus soup or added to any kind of meat stock.

WAY FOUND TO RID CATTLE OF WARBLERS

Vaseline and Iodoform Mixture Rubbed into Openings Makes Pests Beat Retreat from Poor Bossy

Farmers who have thought they must suffer in silence the reduced milk flow and lessened vitality of their cattle by reason of the warblers which have taken up their abode in the backs of their livestock, will be glad to know that they can get rid of the pests by pressing into the openings made by the warblers a mixture

of one part of Iodoform and five parts of Vaseline.

One ounce will treat about 125 warblers. Since the ointment costs only ten cents an ounce when bought in quantities, it is seen that the cost of treating even a large herd is not great. Unless the cattle are very badly infested, it will not take over five cents a head to do the work, those who have tried this method say. To get the best results four applications of ointment should be made at monthly intervals beginning the latter part of March.

Action Prompt

Usually the day following the treatment many of the dead warblers begin to work out of the holes. The process can be hastened by going over the backs of the cattle occasionally and pulling out the protruding grubs.

There are other methods which have been more or less satisfactorily used but both the state college of agriculture and the federal bureau of entomology specialists consider this to be the simplest and most effective.

While individuals can do much by this simple treatment to rid the country of this pest which costs in ruined hides alone at least two millions a year, greater headway can be made if it is taken up as a community matter.

USE PLENTY OF SEED IN PLANTING POTATOES

Pieces Should Be Cut About Size of Hen's Egg and Each Should Have Two Good Eyes

Apparently potatoes cannot see to grow unless they have two good eyes. At any rate, potato-growing sharks say that it is a mistake not to use plenty of seed in planting potatoes and that each spud should not be cut into pieces less than an ounce in weight, and pieces about two ounces, or the size of hen's eggs, or better.

In cutting up potatoes, the gardeners at the state college of agriculture say that the strokes should be at right angles and so made that the potatoes will be short, square and "chunky" rather than long and slim, as pieces of the latter shape "bleed" and dry out more.

The seed preferably should not be cut until just before time to plant. It is necessary to cut seed some time before planting—the pieces should be spread out thin and turned frequently until the out surfaces dry, but seed should not be exposed to direct sunlight.

Cultivate Early

Most of the cultivation for potatoes should be done before the crop is planted. The soil should be worked deep, even as deep as ten inches, if this can be done without bringing up too much of the raw subsoil.

Potatoes, like other vegetables, are planted deeper on loose sandy soil than on heavier types. The usual depth varies, therefore, from two to four inches for early potatoes and from three to five inches for late.

Planting distances should not exceed thirty inches between rows and twelve inches between hills in gardens of average fertility, for hand or wheel hoe cultivation. Plantings are spaced more widely for horse cultivation.

Agrigraphs

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Uncle, Ah says: I've learned so much from my neighbors that I can't afford to be at odds with them, and thus miss getting their ideas.

You can't afford to build a silo without a good foundation. Uneven settling has cracked or warped many a silo, and even overturned them.

Wonder if all the circuses in China have gone out of business? At any rate, a recent item says the Chinese are exporting thousands of tons of peanuts to America.

A little planning will usually let you and the family take in the farmers' and community picnic. As promoters of neighborliness they are too valuable to be misused.

Every good merchant has a "want list" on which he jots down articles he needs to order. A farmer might use this system for listing odd jobs that need doing.

Homepun Yarn

Jack be nimble
Jack be quick—
Plenty of milk
Beats teacher's stick!

The first rule for ice economy: Be sure foods are cold before they are placed in the refrigerator.

Don't let the sweet girl graduate have a fussy gown. She'll be twice as charming in a dainty but simple frock.

Not as good as ice, but it will help wrap the bottle or pail of milk in a wet cloth and place in a draft out of the sun.

Eating out of doors beats eating in the finest dining room ever built. You'll make your picnic too elaborate, and then you will have them oftener.

Of course it isn't true in your community, but—in one rural section in Iowa it was found that out of 137 children examined, only 5 were up to snuff physically. Guess they hadn't had their quart of milk a day.



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