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ASPARAGUS CULTURE IN MISSOURI.

Bulletin No. 43 of the Missouri Experiment Station, by Prof. J. C. Whitten, Horticulturist, describes in detail the best methods of growing asparagus, which, briefly summarized, are as follows:

This plant succeeds well in any rich soil, a loose and somewhat sandy soil being preferred. The best varieties are the Palmetto and Colossal. For the best results the seed should be sown in the greenhouse or hot-bed in February. When the plants are two or three inches high put the best of them in 2 1-2 inch pots. The selection of plants is of great importance. Many of them will have stems that are flat and twisted, or that send out branches near the ground, are tough and woody and should be discarded. Select only such as are cylindrical, smooth, and make at least 2 inches of growth before putting out leaves. These will make crisp and tender plants. Repot these young plants frequently until about the first of May, when they should be planted out of doors. In the absence of greenhouse or hot-bed facilities, growing these

of setting the plants in the ground from 4 inches at one end of the bed to 8 inches at the other; the shallow set plants will come up earlier in the spring, thus giving a longer producing season. Give clean cultivation during the summer, and in the early winter mulch heavily with old fine manure. In early spring ridge up the rows by turning the soil between the rows over the sprouting plants. The sprouts coming through this depth of soil will be long, well bleached and tender. This ridging also facilitates subsequent cultivation, as after the asparagus is cut these ridges may be raked or lightly harrowed to kill all weeds without injuring the crowns below. No asparagus should be cut until the plants are two or three years old, but after they have become thoroughly established, cutting may continue daily for six or eight weeks in the spring. Allow no stems to make leaves until cutting ceases about the first of June. After that time the best cultivation should be given until autumn. Under no circumstances should the tops be cut after harvesting ceases until they have died in the fall. This summer growth makes the