

work, being moist from rain, as the work is comparatively cheaply done while these conditions prevail.

*Asparagus* tops should be cut down level with the ground. If planted in lines on the flat—the modern plan—lightly fork the ground over and give a dressing of stable or farmyard manure. Too much manure cannot be given, though excessive dressings are not really necessary. I have been several times asked if it is necessary or right to lay the crowns bare by dragging away the soil, and leave them in that condition through winter. Some growers are known to do this. My belief is that the practice is the result of a mistake caused by confounding two distinct methods of culture. On the Continent of Europe, particularly in France, they prefer white asparagus. The same is required by canning-factories. British people prefer green stems. It is the green stems our method is intended to produce. For the production of white stems the plants are grown in rows usually 4 ft. apart, and the plants not nearer than 3 ft. to each other in the rows. In spring, before growth begins, ridges are thrown up with a plough or other means, so as to cover the plants many inches deep with soil. The heads make their way through the ridge and are cut low down. The result is heads 12 in. or more long that are white up to the top. The ridges are torn down in autumn when the annual cutting-down is done, the soil being left level till fresh ridges are thrown up the next spring. Note that the crowns are not laid bare. It is this method of treating asparagus that leads people who do not understand the matter to say that the French people grow better asparagus than we do. It is just the same, but blanched instead of green.

*Winter rhubarb* should be encouraged to grow by keeping the soil clean and open. Manure it if required—a thing that is not likely to be overdone, as rhubarb will take as much manure as may be given. These varieties may be planted now or at any time desired, though the best results are obtained by sowing seed early in summer.

Cover *seakale* by boxes surrounded with fermenting manure for forcing. Any one having a heated greenhouse can force the heads beneath the benches. The crowns are to be lifted, placed as close together as possible in large pots or in boxes, and covered effectually to keep them dark. When this plan is adopted the plants are raised annually from whips of the roots, to provide the necessary crowns.

Plant *cauliflower*, *cabbage*, and *lettuce* as soon as the plants from the autumn sowing are strong enough. Be sure to plant two kinds of cauliflower, one early and one a large kind, at the same time, as that is the only way to avoid a break in the supply. This planting is important, because it provides for the spring and early summer supply.