

MRS. WILSON GIVES DIRECTIONS FOR CANNING ASPARAGUS

Precautions Should Be Taken of Getting Strictly Fresh Vegetable or Results Will Not Be Satisfactory

By MRS. M. A. WILSON

ASPARAGUS, our first succulent green vegetable, is the dainty aristocrat of the vegetable kingdom and is so universally liked that many housewives are keen to conserve such a perishable product by canning it; they are very much disappointed when, upon opening the jars that were so carefully done, to find the grass that was canned with such care unfit for food.

"It is sour and mushy," writes one housewife, while another tells me that she was so terribly disappointed after all her trouble to get it that it just made her sick to have to throw out the twenty-five jars that she canned. This is just the place to stop and reason out the trouble. Scientists know of, and call this trouble thermophilic or sour flat; that is, the product becomes acid sour and mushy, but does not over-ferment so much for the description of this trouble with which we are more or less familiar—but what causes it?

Thermophilic or sour flat, is caused by the fact that the asparagus contains a vegetable fluid which very much resembles milk; that is, a fluid which contains a sugar and a lactic acid ferment in a temperature from 80 to 180 degrees Fahr., and, if the asparagus is cut and packed in jars, the sugar is needed closely together so that the fermentation is poor, or if heated in a steam bath, it is absolutely a waste of time, energy and material to can this grass.

To be absolutely successful, the large canners have found that they must cut the grass right in the field where it is grown; thus it is put into the can and under the process before the sun is high in the heavens to dry off the dew. This method prevents failure.

So, if you have no asparagus patch of your own, and if you are not able to buy it from a neighbor who will cut it for you, be cautious and don't can asparagus.

Now let us start with the knowledge that you can either obtain the canning supply from your own or from a neighbor's garden. Do not work in the kitchen if it can be helped; select a shady and cool room for the canning. If you will fill the number of jars that can be processed at once.

Now trim the stalks for size and throw into a large pan of cold water. Stalks in your hand and swirl around in the water to loosen the sand in the tips. Place in a piece of cheesecloth and plunge into a large preserving kettle of boiling water. Cook for ten minutes and then remove from the kettle and plunge into a cold water. Turn on a platter and spread out in a single layer. Then pack quickly into sterilized jars. Fill with boiling salted water and adjust the rubbers and lids. Now if you use the old-fashioned mason jar, just screw the lid as far as it will go, without pressure, and then give it one-half turn back to loosen it. Turn on a platter in the hot-water bath and process for three and one-quarter hours. This means that from the minute the water starts boiling, you must be ready to start bottling in one-quarter hours.

Points to Keep in Mind. Once you start to can asparagus you must remember that delay may ruin your entire lot, so do not waste time in answering or making telephone calls. Should a neighbor who will cut it for you, waste time talking, just tell her what you are doing and beg to be excused. Speed is what really counts and only a few minutes must be lost between the time you start the bleaching process until you have the jar in the hot-water bath for the final step. As you blanch and then cold dip, take

the grass out of doors and pack into the jars. Once in the jars, hurry with as much possible speed as you can imagine into the bath. Have the water warm in the bath, say about 150 degrees, and as soon as the jars are in, bring to the boiling point quickly and then boil as rapidly as possible for the required length of time.

As soon as the time is up remove at once from the bath and fasten the jars securely. Place on a tray and remove to a cool room which is free from drafts and allow the jars to cool. Test for leaks by turning upside down and then dip the top of the jars in melted paraffin and store in a cool, dry place.

How to Prepare the Hot-Water Bath. A regular hot-water outfit may be purchased at a reasonable price and will really pay in the end. However, a washboiler may be utilized by placing a wire and wooden frame in the boiler, thus raising the jars at least one inch from the bottom of the boiler. Cover the top of the hot-water bath with two thicknesses of newspaper to keep the steam in. Before placing on the lid put the newspapers in position and then put a weight on the lid when it is shut.

Use a modern siphon to do this. The siphon is not expensive to do this. It is not extravagant, but rather efficient and prudent on the part of the housewife. Backs to hold the jars in the bath and to remove them from the boiling water cost very little in price and they prevent burned fingers and scalded hands. Wrenches to tighten the tops of the jars are also necessary. Two or three squares of clean, dry, cloth, one or two sharp knives and a set of rubbers of good quality are necessary for success. If you are using last season's jars and they have the same old-fashioned metal lid and unless the edge is turned up the jar will not be airtight and therefore the contents will spoil.

How to True Up the Old Jar Lids. Place a new tin on the stove and heat and heat the lid on the stove. Now take a small block of wood and lay on the edge of the lid and tap the wood with a heavy hammer, working over the entire edge of the lid. And last, but not least, it is needless to tell you that an early morning gives the very best results in canning asparagus.

Adventures With a Purse

ONE shop is showing some striking-looking ash trays, of which, if there are men in your household, you cannot have enough. Now many men are taught them to avoid throwing ashes in their own rubber mat, but I will wager you have never cured them of at least occasionally dropping ashes on the carpet, and then with unutterable assurance you that they will keep the motifs out. I can only hope that you have learned that there is not a word of truth in such a statement. Well, anyhow, the holders are nickel-plated, and the trays form a vivid contrast. They come in deep red, blue or green, which means that you probably could get one to match the color scheme of your living room. Their price is \$1.

Hot weather has many pleasant features, particularly after such a severe winter. But there is one very definite disadvantage to many. It brings in its wake the annoying feet. Often after tight shoes are removed and feet are sought those poor feet will still burn and hurt. But now comes a preparation that you probably could get one to match the color scheme of your living room. Their price is \$1.

Now if you are a careful, neat housekeeper you can consider that you have finished the Adventures for this evening and do not read further. But if, on the other hand, there are times when in spite of your most sedulous care you upset things and spill water, why then you are one with me and should read further. One shop is showing neat aprons with bibs for seventy cents. And here is the thing—use aprons are made of flannel. If you have ever had the experience of splash-dish water on your best dark skirt or on the good dress you had put on before dinner so as to save time after such a protecting apron.

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Editor of Woman's Page, 364 Fourth Avenue, New York, for a list of shops where articles mentioned in Adventures with a Purse may be purchased.

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Please Tell Me What to Do

By CYNTHIA

From "One Who Knows"

Dear Cynthia—I see I have offended some of the readers. Won't you please print my apology? When I wrote against marriage between the customs of the Americans, I wrote from what I have seen of such marriages. I have yet to see a happy marriage between an Italian man and an American girl.

"American Girl": In your case it is different. Of course, you are perfectly happy. You state that your husband was brought up by American people and doesn't even speak his own language. In my opinion he is more American than Italian.

"Believe in True Love": No, I am not married to a "low-bred Italian." In fact, I'm not married at all. You must admit to yourself, though, that the Italians, as a rule, have very different customs from the Americans, and, as I have said before, that is what makes marriage difficult between them.

Agrees With "O. W. K.": Dear Cynthia—Through your column I would like to compliment "One Who Knows" on her letter. While not original, I have had quite a few dealings with them, and what "O. W. K." says is correct in almost every case out of ten. The custom of the Americans, in regard to "One Who Knows" letter, that person is certainly other than the one signed. She is the one who would think it essential to do this, but at the same time a girl does not want to be too tied down. Get out your eyes and make a few comparisons. "O. W. K. B." then you might know the subject you write on better.

What of Dance Halls? Dear Cynthia—I am a fellow of nineteen and would like to ask you a question which of late has been bothering me a little. I like to dance, and once, sometimes twice a week, go to dances. Now recently in an argument which I had with a few fellows, they claimed that to do so is self-respecting fellow, who some time hopes to marry an equally respectable girl, would go to public dance halls. They also claimed that a decent, self-respecting girl will be seen at a public dance, even when she goes along with a crowd of girl friends.

Not Quite Fair to "O. W. K.": Dear Cynthia—I must say that I do not agree with "O. W. K." in his statement. Well, anyhow, the holders are nickel-plated, and the trays form a vivid contrast. They come in deep red, blue or green, which means that you probably could get one to match the color scheme of your living room. Their price is \$1.

Home Assistants. A course for home assistants, who will work in homes on a business basis, for four hours a week with one day off in seven and two weeks' vacation a year with pay, is to be given this summer in New York city at the Central Branch of the Y. W. C. A. This is the largest Y. W. C. A. in the country, with 11,000 members, and is a leader in new movements for girls and women, and offers a complete training and employment planing.

The Newest Shoes

A Daily Fashion Talk by Florence Rose



There are, and it is almost ridiculous to think otherwise, just as many different kinds of feet as there are varieties of noses. Now, for instance, there is the flat foot, with low instep and large ball. On this type of foot the flat sports shoe is very comfortable. The foot with the high instep and small ball was never intended for the flat last, and if such a last is worn it usually results in either fallen or broken arches. Not only should this sort of foot have a high arch shoe, but a high heel as well, correctly placed under the heel and not under the ball of the foot.

THE STREETS OF LIFE

By HAZEL DEYO BATCHELOR

Anne Looks for a Way Out

Did Anne Carter take after her mother, or was her environment such that it brought out only the weaker side of her nature? From childhood she had been kept down by her father, her heavy-lidded nature had been starved, the friendships in her life had been few and far between, and her mother's suicide to shadow her life in addition to all the rest.

Willie had talked Bill Snyder had drawn nearer to Anne unconsciously, and quite suddenly found his face near to hers. The impression that his kindness had made upon her was swallowed up in a revulsion of feeling. She saw only his gleaming eyes, and the looseness of his mouth. The terrible feeling of distrust that she had felt the first time she had ever seen him was filling her with loathing, that fear that he would touch her made her mouth dry and her hands tremble.

Wedding Flowers. "The Sign of the Rose" CHARLES HENRY FOX, 221 S. BROAD ST.

The Woman's Exchange

Stains on Skirt

Dear Madam—Please let me know through your interesting column what takes grease stains out of a woolen serge skirt. ALICE WOOD.

Removing Stains

Dear Madam—Will you please advise me through the columns of your valued paper if there is any way of removing perspiration stains from an Alice blue satin dress? This material, by the way, shows every water spot. Therefore, I believe a "dry-cleaning" method ought to be used. The color is neither light nor dark. A DAILY READER.

Her Curls Stick Up

Dear Madam—I am a girl sixteen years of age and am considered good looking. There is one thing that spoils my looks and that is this: I have beautiful black curls that hang over my shoulders. Now, I wear bangs and they are curly and stick up. What I want you to do, dear madam, is to tell me what to do to make them stay down. Please tell me what to do, as I would like them to stay down.

A LEDGER READER

You can get pomade or hair preparations that will make your hair lie down. There are things of this kind sold in drug stores or in the toilet articles department of the large stores. If your hair is naturally curly you can make it the way you want it by wetting it and trying a ribbon around your head when you go to bed at night. Try one of the way Aunt Martha suggested that Anne take a walk.

HE TIPPED THE WAITER TWO CENTS EVERY NIGHT

And Was Surprised Because He Continued to Get Good Service—The World Today Expects to Be Paid for Every Bit of Ordinary Politeness

HE WAS a very good waiter, and his manners were just as careful as his service. When the solitary diner whom he had just served paid his check he added a tip—just two cents. The waiter thanked him as graciously as if the tip had been a dollar and put the pennies carefully away in his pocket. The diner appeared at the same time the following evening.

"Remember me?" he asked. "I don't believe I do, sir," answered the waiter apologetically. "You see I wait on so many people here—" But his service was just as good as it had been the night before. The tip was the same, two cents. The waiter bowed his thanks just as before.

Early Peas. Peas are one of the earliest garden crops and often too much space relatively is devoted to them. For most city gardens one quart of seed peas will be sufficient. This will plant from 200 to 300 feet of row, according to the variety of peas. Preferably, secure a pint each of two varieties rather than one quart of one variety. This is the advice of the United States Department of Agriculture garden specialists.

IT SOUNDS like a fairy story, doesn't it? But it happens to be perfectly true. The pity of it is that it should sound too good to be true. The fact is so typical of the times in which we live. At one time it wouldn't have been such a marvel to hear of a person who was willing to be gracious without being paid for it.

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The Question Corner. Today's Inquiries. 1. How can a stamp be removed from a letter without tearing? 2. What is the average length of a baby at birth? 3. How can a rebellious lid of a fruit jar be removed? 4. What novel comb stimulates the growth of the hair? 5. How is a good looking linen dress trimmed? 6. What can be done with white hankies or hand shoes that are too soiled to be cleaned again?

Saturday's Answers. 1. The island near Vladivostok, Russia formerly used only by the czar's military forces, is now being used as a refuge for 500 boys and girls, who are refugees from the Bolsheviks. 2. Candies should be kept in a cold place in order to assure their burning slowly. 3. The application of milk after the skin is well cleansed is said to make the skin white and smooth. It should be rinsed off quickly, followed by cold cream. 4. In sprinkling tomato plants in the garden it should be remembered that too much water will prevent the fruit forming. 5. A convenient gift for the chess or checkers player is a folding board made of celluloid, with the squares stenciled on with paint. 6. A convenient gift for guests in a suburban home is a table-topped in a prominent place near the door.

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