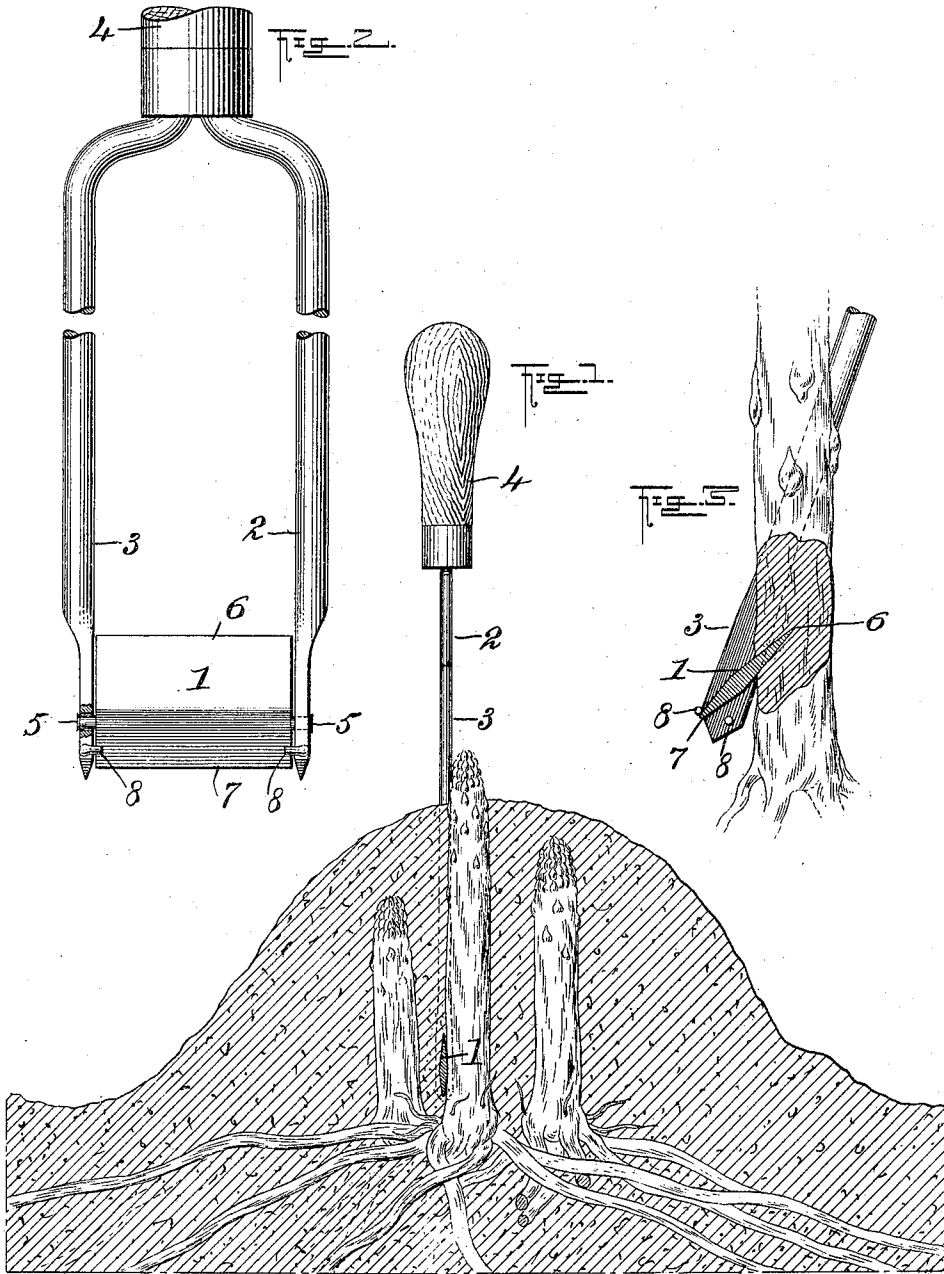


No. 783,359.

PATENTED FEB. 21, 1905.

J. O. BOWDEN.
ASPARAGUS CUTTER.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 21, 1904



WITNESSES:

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JAMES O. BOWDEN, OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

ASPARAGUS-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 783,359, dated February 21, 1905.

Application filed June 21, 1904. Serial No. 213,468.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES O. BOWDEN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Wilmington, in the county of New Hanover and State of North Carolina, have invented a new and Improved Asparagus-Cutter, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for cutting asparagus from the hills, the objects being to provide a device of this character of simple and inexpensive construction, by means of which the individual shoots or stalks may be readily severed from the crown or root without in any manner damaging other shoots growing from the crown or breaking the tip of the cut shoot.

Other objects of the invention will appear in the general description.

I will describe an asparagus-cutter embodying my invention and then point out the novel features in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of an asparagus-cutter embodying my invention, showing the instrument as first inserted in a hill. Fig. 2 is a front view of the cutter, and Fig. 3 illustrates the position of parts when severing a stalk or shoot.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a blade mounted to swing or rock in a support, here shown as consisting of two members 2 3, extended from a handle 4. The blade 1 has trunnions 5, which have bearings in perforations formed in the members 2 3, and the upper edge 6 is sharpened, the said edge being designed to cut the asparagus. The lower edge 7 is also sharpened or beveled, so the device may be readily forced into the ground. The rocking movement of the blade is limited in either direction by means of stop-pins 8, formed on the support members.

In the operation the instrument is forced

into the ground while the blade is in vertical position or substantially parallel with the members of the support, and after inserting the device to a sufficient depth the supporting members are to be turned laterally, as indicated in Fig. 3, so that the blade will pass through the stalk or shoot when the device is drawn upward. As the stalk or shoot projecting above the ground is the only one to be cut, it is obvious that as the tool is passed down at one side thereof there will be no danger of its coming in contact with the crown or with the other stalks growing therefrom.

With this device asparagus may be easily cut, even by an inexperienced person, and the several stalks will be practically all of the same length.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. An asparagus-cutter comprising a blade-support, and a blade having a rocking connection with said support, the said blade having sharpened upper and lower edges.

2. An asparagus-cutter comprising a support, a blade mounted to rock in said support and having sharpened upper and lower edges, and means for limiting the rocking movement of the blade.

3. An asparagus-cutter comprising a support, a blade mounted to rock in the support and having sharpened upper and lower edges, and stops on the support for limiting the rocking movement of the blade.

4. An asparagus-cutter comprising a support and a blade mounted to swing therein, the said blade having a sharpened upper edge and a beveled lower edge, and stop-pins on the support.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES O. BOWDEN.

Witnesses:

C. R. FERGUSON,
JNO. M. RITTER.