

### STRAWBERRIES.

Little attention has yet been given to strawberry culture in Saskatchewan but enough has been done to demonstrate that the crop can be grown successfully under our average conditions, and when this is realised many families will certainly set out plantations. Given good wind break protection any good moist soil will produce strawberries, but the ideal location is on a sandy loam, which has a northern exposure. The soil should be well manured and deeply summerfallowed during the year prior to the spring when the plants are to be set out. Order healthy one-year-old plants, having roots about 3 inches long and set them out as soon as received, in rows 4 feet apart, plants 2 feet apart in the row. Use a spade to open the soil, spread the roots out well and set the plant in such a depth that the crown will be just level with the surface. Pack the soil well around the roots and if the season is dry, water occasionally until the roots are well established. Frequent shallow surface cultivation is required during the summer. All blossoms which appear during the first season should be removed and not more than four runners per plant should be allowed to take root. These runner plants should be kept in the row and spaced so that the moisture will be evenly divided. In the fall mulch the bed with 2 or 3 inches of clean straw to protect the plants and hold snow. Leave the mulch in place until the plants show signs of life the following spring and then rake it carefully off the rows. The straw may be left between the rows to keep the fruit clean, until after it is picked.

Strawberries produce their best crop in the year after that in which the plantation is set out. Some growers advocate setting out a new bed each year and plowing up the old one as soon as it has borne fruit, but this is not necessary, as one or two more good crops can be produced by renovating the bed. This can be done by removing the tops immediately after the last picking and then plowing between the rows leaving only 5 or 6 inches on each side of the row unturned. Apply a good coating of well rotted manure and disc the patch until the surface is leveled down. Growth will soon start and enough new plants will be produced to make a good stand. These plants should, of course, be again protected with a mulch on the approach of winter. This treatment can be repeated the following year, but after the third crop the bed should be plowed up. A new bed should be started in the spring of the year in which the old bed is to be destroyed, using one-year-old plants from the old bed as planting stock.

In selecting varieties of strawberries it must be remembered that some varieties produce no pollen and consequently will not bear fruit unless planted along with pollen bearing sorts.

The Senator Dunlop is considered the best variety for western planting, being very hardy and producing perfect flowers. Warfield and Beder Wood are also hardy and perfect flowered varieties.

### NATIVE FRUITS.

There are a number of native fruits sometimes used for culinary purposes, which are deserving of attention, and which, if transplanted