

## HORTICULTURE

### Strawberry Varieties

W. F. W. Fisher, Ithaca, Ontario

The choice of strawberry varieties depends largely on local conditions, and on the object for which the fruit is to be grown, whether for home market or for long distance shipping.



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**SUCCESSFUL FRUIT CULTURE**—A practical guide to the cultivation and propagation of fruits, by Samuel T. Maynard. This book is written from the standpoint of the practical fruit grower who is striving to make his business profitable by growing the best fruit possible and at the least cost. It is up-to-date in every particular, and covers the entire practice of fruit culture. It illustrates 274 pages 5 x 7 inches. Cloth \$1.00.

The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, Peterboro, Ont. Write for our complete catalog of books.

Many growers fall into the error of needlessly multiplying the number of varieties. It is best to choose judiciously and keep the number for a commercial plantation down to two or three. A new and profitable demand will be created as soon as large plantations or single varieties of the right sort are offered to buyers.

The plants should be taken from well-watered young beds. All weak ones should be discarded. Trim off the runners and dead leaves, lay the plants straight in a carrying basket, sprinkle well with water and cover to exclude air. They are then ready for the field. Plant as soon as possible after digging.

### New Fruit Drying Process

An invention which produces "naturally dried fruit" in an "artificial manner" by a hot air process, has just been tested before experts in California, and proven highly successful. The fruit is laid in trays constructed of wire netting, and a continuous draught of air heated to 150 is forced through the fruit. Moisture extracted is carried away through an air stack and by control of heat and air, nature is closely imitated.

The new process is claimed to do the work in two weeks' less time than the field drying method, and with the same result. The first tray of fruit, which happens to be pruned, taken out of the dryer was acknowledged by experts to be exceptional. When weighed to ascertain the shrinkage by the new method compared with the old, an increase of 10 points was noted in favor of the hot air.

### The Care of Garden Tools

A. C. Illair, Peterboro, Ont.

Many and varied are the kinds of tools used in the work of gardening about the home. Most of them are familiar to the amateur gardener. More important than a mere enumeration of them is the difference between a good and a bad implement. One of the most commonly used garden tools is the spade. With one of the modern improved kinds, a person can do, with the same exertion, 10 per cent more work than he could with the heavy, easily-clogged kinds formerly in use. It is the case that, with all well-adapted tools of superior description, the work is better done.

The care of tools and implements is a matter that is frequently neglected by gardeners. Economy not only in outlay, but in labor, is secured by the proper cleaning and storing of all tools when not in use. For gardens of considerable dimensions, a tool-house should be provided with arrangements for convenient and safe storage. Brackets and hooks against walls for seives, ropes, scythes, rakes, spades, and so on; shelves, drawers or cupboards for small tools, and boxes for labels, twine and pegs, should be furnished in every orderly tool-house. Make a point always to return every article to its proper place when not in use.

Wet days may be turned to account by oiling, sharpening and repairing tools that require it. Even in small gardens a place for the storing of tools ought to be found. With good, clean tools, more and better work is accomplished than is possible when they are rusty, or blunt, or rickety.

It would be better to take cuttings of the young growth and propagate new bushes.

The chief reasons for pruning trees are to modify the vigor of the tree, to produce larger and better fruit, to keep the tree within manageable shape and limits, to change the habit of the tree from fruit to wood production, or vice versa, to remove surplus, or injured parts, to facilitate harvesting and spraying, to facilitate tilting and to train to some desired form.

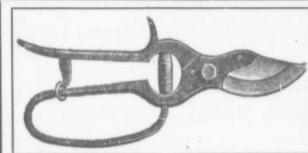
Readers of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, who are interested in horticulture in any of its branches, are requested to contribute articles and letters for publication on this page. An exchange of experiences will benefit you and others. Send some photographs if you have them.

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