

EFFICIENT FARMING

FIRST SEASON WITH STRAWBERRIES.

The time that most strawberry plants are set depends upon the amount of moisture in the soil, and in this province early in May seems to be the most ideal for transplanting strawberry plants. Immediately after strawberry plants are set we should start cultivation and continue a thorough cultivation throughout the season, in order to conserve moisture and keep out the weeds. To do this, the fields should be gone over at least every week or ten days with a cultivator and several times during the season with hoes.

The soil should be kept very mellow so when the runners start to grow they will take root readily. If a drought should occur during the time the runners are forming, it is then very essential that the moisture in the soil should be conserved and the soil kept very mellow by frequent cultivations. The better the care the bed receives during a drought or dry spell the better the next year's crop of strawberries will be both in quantity and quality.

Cultivation should be continued till the ground freezes in the fall. By doing this one will be able to kill weeds and grass which otherwise would be ready to start quickly in the spring and would take a great deal of the moisture that is needed by the strawberry plants at that time. Weeds and grass also interfere a great deal with the pollination of the berries, a large percentage of rubbings and imperfect berries being found in fields where there is much weed growth. Keeping weeds and grass out of the strawberry bed during the first season is the secret of producing large, well-developed strawberries the second season, and these are what make the strawberry patch a profitable crop on the farm. In weedy fields it is also much more difficult to pick the berries without injuring them. Late fall cultivation of the strawberry bed is considered as one of the most important factors in strawberry culture, and in many localities it is considered as one of the essentials to profitable strawberry culture.

After the plants are set they frequently send out flower stems which, under favorable conditions, may mature a few berries. The development of a crop of fruit on such fruiting stems is a severe drain on the plants which have not yet got fully established in the ground. This may be the cause of many of the young tender plants dying during a season of drought, and it will cause the plants to be less vigorous and very few runners will be sent out during the first season. Because of this many growers pick off the blossoms as they appear. This practice is a profitable one where strawberries are grown under very intensive culture, and even in the field culture of strawberries this method of picking the blossoms the first season has proved to be a very profitable one.

After the plants begin to send out runners the width of the row is determined by the width of the strip that is kept cultivated. Thorough cultivation will prevent the runners from rooting and will turn them back towards the row, and in this way the width of the row is controlled by cultivation. The density of the plants in the row is controlled by cutting out with a hoe all the plants that are not needed. This process of thinning out the plants has an effect on improving the quality of the berries the bed is going to produce the following season.

During the fall of the first season after you have completed the last cultivation of the strawberry bed, a thorough coating of straw to serve as a mulch should be spread on the strawberry patch. This mulch is very useful in conserving moisture, keeping the berries clean, and in keeping down the weeds in the strawberry patch. The straw is scattered over the fields in the fall and in the spring the plants will grow up through it, but in most cases some will have to be raked off into the middle of the rows. The use of the mulch may retard the ripening season of the berries, but this delay is slight and seldom of importance to the strawberry grower.

Perennial Flowers for the Farm

The perennial flowers are more and more appreciated by farmers and their families as they become better known through being seen in our public gardens, at the Experimental Stations and in the school gardens and the home projects of the children. The Women's Institutes have also contributed much to the popularity of these home beautifiers.

Among the many reasons that might be mentioned showing why these hardy perennial flowers are particularly suited for improving the surroundings of our country homes are the following: They require only a small amount of time and attention, during the busy seasons on the average farm, compared with many of the annual flowers. They are easily propagated by seed, by cutting from the stems and roots or by the very simple method of division. They are less subject as a class to insect and fungus injury than the annual flowers.

Every Canadian locality has its own groups of native perennial wild flowers. Many of these are strikingly beautiful and being naturally very hardy they are often the most satisfactory that can be obtained for mass effect along the boundaries and in the borders about the farm home garden. Some common useful ones are: Perennial Asters, Goldenrods, Lilies, Trilliums, Mints and Daisies. By combining these with other flowers many very attractive groups can be arranged at very little cost.

It is often important to know the blooming season, the height and habits of the plants when arranging groups of perennial flowers to get the best effect. The following list, of a few of our favorites, is arranged to give continual bloom from the crocuses blooming under the snow in the fall. The sub-groups, according to seasons, are arranged in order of average height of plants, the lowest growing being mentioned first in each group. Plants that are highly ornamental when not in bloom are printed in italics:

Early spring: Crocus, Early Tulips, Narcissus and Darwin Tulips.

Late spring: Iris, Columbine, Oriental Poppy, Paeonies and Bleeding Heart.

Early summer: Pinks, Foxgloves, Ribbon Grass, Larkspur and Hollyhocks.

Midsummer: Water Lilies, Coreopsis, Tiger Lilies, Asparagus and Dahlias.

Late summer: Phlox, African Sunflower and Golden Glow.

Autumn: Baby's Breath and Perennial Asters.

These hardy perennials are easily grown from seed. They grow more slowly when seedlings than annuals, yet a few like the Iceland Poppy will bloom the same season if sown early. The beginner is likely to have the best success by sowing in the open ground. Prepare a bed, when the spring rush is over, in a warm sheltered spot more

or less shaded. Work the soil until it is mellow with a fine smooth surface. Sow in shallow rows, four inches apart, covering the seed lightly and pressing down the surface gently. Water should be applied sparingly and a sprinkle of fine soil dusted on afterwards. Protect from very bright sun or heavy winds. Thin the seedlings when they come up and transplant into permanent positions when two or three inches high. Good success has been obtained by seeding right in the permanent place in early September.

The different kinds of perennial flowers we have mentioned are divided into many varieties which also vary in height and time of blooming. Further particulars regarding any of these can be obtained from your nearest Experimental Station. You should plan, during the summer, to call and see these flowers growing. The above list may not contain your favorites. For instance, the Pansy, that queen of flowers, was not mentioned because it is one of the many biennials that live but two years. Roses were omitted as they belong to the shrubs with their bloom borne from the wood of the previous year.

Some perennial flowers begin to fail after two or three seasons of full bloom. Vigorous young plants should be brought along in a bed to replace them. Old roots that show the effect of crowding should be taken up and divided, using only the fresh strong parts when replanted. After the first killing frost the stalks of the perennial flowers should be cut within a few inches of the ground. They can be used for the winter protection of the bulbs and roots or be removed when the beds and borders are given their autumn dressing of coarse straw manure; this should be put on just as late as possible before the snow comes. Tulip bulbs are usually lifted and dried out as soon as they have matured after their blooming season and replanted in October. Dahlias are lifted before severe frost and stored in a suitable cellar until the following spring. The coarse manure used to protect the beds in winter should be spaded under early in the spring. The keeping down of weeds and the cutting of blooms are about all the attention these magnificent flowers require during the summer season.

Recently we replaced an old rail fence with one made of wire. The old rails were gathered up for use in maple-sugar making, and we found a good many of them were of the finest possible pine wood. How long ago these rails were split no one knows, but they lasted well and were still quite sound, making excellent kindling. Lumber from the trees out of which those rails were split would now be worth from \$60 to \$90 a thousand.—V.



CANADIAN CATTLE ARRIVING AT GLASGOW

For the first time in thirty-one years, when the embargo against Canadian cattle was placed, a shipment of live stock arrived recently at the port of Glasgow. So much interest had been evinced in the event that it took on something of the nature of a civic welcome, with the town officials in attendance, wearing maple leaves in their button holes.

Feeding of Chicks.

Chicks should not be fed until they show positive signs of hunger, which will be between two and three days after hatching. They should then be fed a little at a time and often, the Assistant Dominion Poultry Husbandman suggests five times daily, depending on light, easily digested feeds such as bread crumbs slightly moistened with milk, or bread crumbs and curds, just enough scratch grains being fed to get them used to it. They should have access to a dish of dry feed as soon as possible. Having continued this light feeding for about a week, the feed can be gradually increased as follows: first feed, bread crumbs moistened with milk or mixed with good sound infertile eggs, just what the chicks will clean up, on a little clean sand or chick grit; second, finely cracked mixed grain; third, rolled oats; fourth, moistened bread crumbs; fifth, finely cracked mixed grains. If too early to get the chicks on grass, green food can be supplied in the form of young lettuce, sprouted grains, or any other tender succulent food that is acceptable. After the chicks are ten days or two weeks old, coarser feeds are in order, the bread and milk being discontinued. When on range, hoppers, in which are placed grains and dry mash or rolled oats, should be put where the chicks can have free access to them. As soon as they become accustomed to the hoppers, the hand-feeding is reduced to the mash feeds and, if the chicks are on good range, it will be found that after a time they will get careless about coming when called. The mash can then be dropped and dependence placed entirely on the hopper feeding. Grit, water and a dish of sour milk should be placed where the chicks can reach them freely. The mash may consist of equal parts bran, middlings, cornmeal, oat flour, fine beef scrap, but the composition is more or less dependent on the feeds that are most available.

The bulletin, which is entitled "Poultry Feeds and Feeding," not only deals with the feeding of chicks, as here set forth, but also with the nature of the feeds and the feeding of all kinds of fowl.

Treatment of the Weanling Pigs.

The weanling period, and from weaning until twelve to sixteen weeks of age, is the critical period in the life of a bacon hog, says Mr. G. B. Rothwell, Dominion Animal Husbandman, in a leaflet "The Influence of Feeds and Feeding on the Type of Market Hogs." In the opinion of this authority, the fact that the percentage of select hogs coming to our yards is so small, particularly in the West, is due in a great measure to insufficient methods of milk and abrupt weaning methods. He emphasizes that any system of feeding a bacon hog that tends toward the too early laying on of fat and prevents the maximum growth of bone and muscle during the first four months tends towards the development of a thicker, shorter carcass and away from the type that will make into a lean side. Three years of work of an experimental farm revealed conclusively that: (1) Young pigs fed rations containing a minimum of fibre and with skim-milk available, threw well, had little or no setback incidental to weaning, and grew the frame and bone that enabled them later to develop into select market hogs; (2) Weanling pigs fed the same ration without milk were much less thrifty, inclined to be stunted and developed into slower finishing and thicker, shorter hogs ("thick-smooth" to-day); (3) Weanling pigs fed meal mixture plus tankage and milk were, if anything, less thrifty than where no tankage was used, but developed into select hogs; (4) Young pigs fed meal and tankage (no milk) while not of the undesirable type of the pigs getting meal only, were, nevertheless, sufficiently checked in growth to cause their development into market pigs too short, too thick, and lacking in quality. The leaflet referred to will be sent upon request to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The best parent of a baby is the one who is not afraid to hear it cry, if it is crying for what it does not need and what is not good for it.

CUT THE DEAD TIMBER

On a large number of farms "dead timber" is a source of heavy loss and, at a time when all margins are small margins, it often means the elimination of the profits. We use the term "dead timber" not only in a literal sense, but with reference to any article or animal on the farm whatsoever, that has ceased to be productive. These things are either giving a return greater than their cost in the way of growth, increase or service, or they have passed their period of progress, or efficient service and throw the balance on the wrong side of the ledger.

Speaking literally, when the trees in the woodlot begin to show dead tops they are ripe and ready to harvest, and like the wheat, the longer they stand after reaching that stage, the greater the loss. Likewise the plow that refuses longer to function in a creditable manner, should be either put in shape or replaced with a new one. It is poor economy to expend one's time and horsepower and do only half a job. The extra horse that stands in the barn most of the time can quickly "eat his head off," and the cow or the sow that does not give a satisfactory increase, is "dead timber," and should be eliminated. Four or five thousand pounds of milk a year, or four or five pigs per litter, is not enough. It means you are working for the animal instead of the animal working for you.

We believe in more live stock, but we believe more strongly in better live stock, for the average Ontario farmer. Altogether too large a proportion of

A Sun Subscription Offer

The next three months will be months of absorbing interest to the electors of Ontario. Never before in the history of the Province was there as much political confusion and uncertainty as there is to-day; never before was it so necessary that electors should understand the point of view of those with whom they differ.

The Farmers' Sun during the coming campaign will endeavor to give its readers a full and impartial record of events and to those who hold to the principles it supports, as well as those who may support other principles but who wish to be well informed, it offers a special subscription opportunity. The Sun will be sent to any address in Ontario for three months for fifty cents, or six months for one dollar. You may send your subscription by Postal Note or Express Order to the Sun Office, or through the courtesy of your local paper.

The Farmers' Sun

109 GEORGE ST. TORONTO

our farm animals are not efficient producers. They are loafers or boarders, or just plain robbers. They are "dead timber" and should be disposed of, to the best possible advantage, of course, but disposed of somehow. Times are too close these days to permit the small profits possible to be consumed by "dead timber."

The Sort of Determination That Wins Out.

While talking to an ambitious young man about his future, he said to me: "I do not propose to be a cipher in the world. I am determined to stand for something, to make my life count. I am going to try with all my might to make good in the largest possible way. I am resolved not to be an idler. I am going to push things. I am going to work for results. I am not looking for an easy job. I am not afraid of hard work."

"I do not propose to be thin-skinned, to quail at rebuffs. I will neither be cajoled or ridiculed out of my resolve to get to the front in my vocation. I am determined to be king in my line. I don't propose to accept my second-best without a terrific protest."

"I am not going to complain, to pity, or coddle myself. If things go hard, experiences are painful, I propose to show my grit, to stick and hang and never acknowledge defeat, nor am I going to accept misfortune. I am going to regard myself as lucky, fortunate. I know that I was made, planned, intended for the best, for prosperity, for comfort, even luxury. My whole constitution is fitted for the best. I am going to look for the things that are my birthright—for plenty, happiness. I know the way to get these

things is to expect them." Is it surprising that a man with such a determination should have advanced by marvelous strides to the front of his business and be recommended to-day as a leader in his community?—O. S. Marden.

Control of Cabbage Root Maggot.

Vegetable gardeners have reason at times to complain of the ravages of the cabbage root maggot. At the Kentville, N.S., Experimental Station, where the pests have been troublesome, it has been found of the various materials tried the tar felt discs have been the most economical. These are put on at planting time. They should be carefully placed to prevent any opening around the plant in which the fly may deposit eggs. Corrosive sublimate, one ounce to ten gallons of water, sprayed around the plants, using one-half pint to each plant, has also been found effective. It is wise to move some soil away from the stem of the plant to hold the liquid and give it a chance to work in well around the area in which eggs or maggots may be located. At Kentville, this was done on May 27, June 4 and 11, and the maggots were controlled, but of course the time would depend upon the locality and the advance of the season.

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