

or irrigation. The season for ripe fruit opens early in June in southern Ontario and in parts of British Columbia. At Ottawa the first ripe fruit has been obtained on June 17, and the last picking of the latest variety was made on July 19. The season in the settled parts of the province of Quebec is somewhat similar to that at Ottawa, except along the lower St. Lawrence, where it is much later, the fruit not being ripe until about the first week of July, and the season continuing until the second week of August. The season on Prince Edward Island extends into August also. The strawberry season in all parts of Canada covers two months or more.

Culture: Soil and its Preparation.

If possible, the site for the strawberry plantation should be chosen where snow will lie in winter. A good covering of snow usually ensures a good crop of fruit. One of the most important requisites in a soil for strawberries is thorough drainage, as where water lies on or near the surface, the plants are sure to suffer either in summer or winter. While too much moisture is bad, too little moisture is unfavourable to the development of fruit, hence a soil should be retentive of moisture while not saturated with it. Warm soils, such as sandy loams, will produce early fruit, but friable clay loam will usually produce the best crops. Much, however, depends on the richness of the soil, as strawberries need abundance of available plant-food to give the best results.

Soil which will grow good crops of roots will usually grow good strawberries. A soil should be chosen, if possible, which does not bake naturally or which by thorough tillage may be brought into such good condition that it will not bake. It is difficult to keep the plantation free of weeds in soil that bakes, and it is also hard to conserve soil-moisture in a dry time.

Soil should be chosen, if possible, that has been prepared in a measure by growing a crop of roots which have been heavily manured. After the roots or other crops have been removed in the autumn, the land should be stirred deeply, it being a good practice to use a subsoil plough for this purpose. By using the subsoil plough the soil may be loosened to the required depth without bringing the subsoil to the surface, which would probably happen if it were ploughed very deep with the ordinary plough. Clover sod ploughed in the autumn is also good, as the soil enriches humus, but grass sod land should be avoided, as there is great danger of infestation from the white grub. In the spring the soil should be brought into good tilth with the harrows, and when it is thought best it may be ploughed beforehand.

The best fertilizer for strawberries is well-rotted barnyard manure, which should be used in large quantities. There need be little fear of using too much—thirty tons of well-rotted barnyard manure per acre being a fair application. It may be applied early in the spring before planting and thoroughly incorporated with the soil, or it may be used for a previous cultivated crop so as to get the soil clean and in the best condition for the strawberry plants. Fresh manure is not as satisfactory as manure well rotted, for it may make the soil too loose, causing it to dry out quicker and make the conditions bad for newly-set plants. On heavy soils, fresh manure may be used with better results than on lighter soils, but as there are likely to be many weeds grow if green manure is used, rotted manure is preferable even on heavier soils.