

cultivators might also be named who have arrived at similar results.

It is far better to feed the fruit properties instead of the plant, for we opine it will be found that the over-feeding of the strawberry is one of the most universal and destructive errors in its cultivation.

Some use liquid manures, composed of cow and hen-droppings dissolved in a barrel of water; but they are not well adapted to assist the fruit-bearing properties of the plant, but are good if the object be to send out runners and increase the plants.

On the opening of Spring—the latter part of April or the 1st May, in the latitude of the State of New York—it is well to give the plants an impetus, by liberally showering them every ten days or two weeks with a solution, in six gallons of water, of one quarter of a pound each of sulphate of potash, sulphate of soda, (Glauber salts,) and nitrate of soda, with one and a half ounces of sulphate of ammonia; or, if these cannot be conveniently obtained, use the same quantity of potash, sal soda, Glauber salts, and sal or muriate of ammonia; or a solution of either of them is beneficial if applied alone.

We have tried for many years various combinations in solution, but have been unable to obtain any so valuable as the first named.

We have always found plaster injurious to the strawberry, and ashes beneficial, when judiciously applied.

TRANSPLANTING.

This is a process to which the strawberry is sensitive. The plant will live under almost any treatment or any manner or time of transplanting, but will not always yield a full supply of good fruit unless this process is appropriately performed. First we speak as to TIME.

For large plantations, or for ordinary cultivators, the spring is perhaps the best season; certainly it is the time when it can be the easiest and most successfully accomplished. The ground is soft and moist at that time, and the weather is usually favorable.

The next season generally recommended is the month of September. Plants can then be easily obtained, and after the cool, moist fall weather has commenced, the ground works easily, and there is not much difficulty in making them live. There is one danger, however, to be especially guarded against in all transplanting; that is, the plants may not get so firmly rooted as to be enabled to withstand successfully the severe frosts of winter. A liberal covering of straw will assist in remedying this matter. An advantage gained over spring transplanting will be, the earth will not be as liable to pack so very hard around the plants in the fall, as under the hot summer's sun and rains, and the plants will not be so likely to be checked in their growth as in the droughts which often occur in June and July or August.

We have transplanted strawberry plants successfully for years, every month, from March until the 20th of October, without difficulty. With mulching, shade, and water, judiciously applied, it can be well done at any time. For our ordinary planting, we prefer the 1st of July for several reasons. The ground, if thoroughly prepared then, will not be subject to become so hard packed. The weeds will not be so troublesome. If the plants get well started, and are not checked in the growth, they will produce very nearly a full crop of fruit the following spring. We have found that these advantages will amply repay the little extra care in mulching, shading, and watering. Ten or fifteen days' later planting will seriously lessen the first crop, according to our ob-

servations. In spring planting, March will answer south of Philadelphia, and last of April and first of May for the north.

MANNER OF TRANSPLANTING.

The best way undoubtedly is, to take the first runners as soon as fairly set, and remove them with a transplanting-trowel, with the roots and earth undisturbed. This cannot be conveniently done, except the plants are in the same garden with the new bed. Neither have we ever found the first runners more productive than the subsequent ones, unless they are stronger.

In most cases, plants come from a distance, and great care should be taken to get as large a proportion of the numerous fibrous roots as possible, and in order to this, the ground should always be well saturated with water, either artificially or otherwise, before the plants are taken up, and then the first thing to be done, is to mud the roots, by dipping them in a little mud-hole made in the garden soil, where the water has been poured and stirred, until it has become sufficiently thickened with the soil to leave a good coating of mud on the roots of the plants as they are withdrawn. This greatly protects the plants on a short or a longer transportation.

For transplanting, the earth should be levelled and made as flat as possible. If raised into beds or hills, it will invite the drought, to which the strawberry plant has a decided aversion. The plants should then be set out, leaving the roots in as nearly their natural spreading condition as possible; with the fingers press the pure earth compactly around the body of the plant, being careful not to set the plant too deep. If there is any old bark or decayed portion of the leaves on the plant, remove it before setting out: an old plant will usually renew itself by sending out a new set of roots on being transplanted, and it should be remembered that the strawberry plant, while it places its roots, mainly, near the surface of the ground, yet a portion of its larger roots penetrate favorable soils to the depth of from two to four feet, and even a greater depth in some cases.

DISTANCE IN TRANSPLANTING.

The Alpine and smaller varieties should always be eight inches apart, while the larger varieties should be allowed twelve to eighteen inches. Put one plant in a place, and let no other remain nearer than the above distances, and it is not material to success in cultivation whether you plant in rows, beds or hills, if you do not bill them up. We often set out in rows; or, a method by which we have enjoyed great success in producing the finest fruit, has been to prepare a plot of ground, and cover it with strong plants one yard apart, and stimulate these, by a liberal application of liquid manures or soap-suds from the wash to send out runners which will soon supply the intermediate ground with plants of nature's own planting, which is a little better done than any one else can do it; care should, however, be taken to spread the runners so that the above distance of from eight to twelve inches can be preserved.

For *field culture*, set two-plants in a place, one foot from the next, in rows three feet apart, so as to leave room for a horse cultivator to pass between the rows, care being requisite not to approach nearer than eight inches to the plants, when at work among them. This whole process of field culture is the same in its general principles with that in the garden; except, for the convenience of a horse-cultivator to pass between them, the rows should one way be planted the same distance apart as corn; then the same treatment as to clean cultivation, and even water and mulching, as far as convenient, is desirable.