

It will be best for the beginner to plant those kinds known to succeed well in his neighbourhood, if he can learn this fact, and known to be popular in his market, if he grows for sale. Plant two or three varieties only, if for market, but experiment moderately with others. If Pistillate varieties are selected, they must be set in alternate rows or narrow beds, with perfect flowering kinds. But different sorts must not be allowed to run together, and they should be kept entirely separate in the picking.

The grower for a distant market, or when the fruit is to be kept for a day or two in the ordinary temperature of summer, is limited by those conditions in his choice of kinds. He must have sorts which endure well, and which are comparatively firm. The list of these sorts is a short one. For this purpose the Wilson stands first, the Captain Jack next, I can almost say last. I speak of kinds generally introduced. Other and larger kinds endure shipment pretty well, while the weather is quite cool, but very few of them bear long transportation in hot weather.

Now to begin with the beginner at the beginning of a strawberry plantation: first, take good land, if you can get it; if not, select then the best soil you can command—such as would grow good potatoes or corn. Plough it well in the fall, plough it well in the spring; good, common ploughing will do. Don't fool away money in trenching or deep sub-soiling, unless you like to plant in the spring, not in the fall, not in the summer. In setting plants don't follow any aristocratic direction. Don't dig a hole, then make a mound in the hole, then spread the roots equally all around that mound, and then sift in the earth through a sieve, as some good people say; that will do for a dozen plants, but it is too slow for large quantities, and a fast, easy way is just as good.

Your ground being well prepared, ploughed, harrowed and rolled, mark off carefully for the rows. Your plants being well trimmed, should be dipped in water and placed in a pail. An active boy should take the pail of plants and place them deftly in openings which you make with a spade. Thrust the spade in before you at an angle of forty-five degrees; the boy puts in the plant, while you withdraw the spade and press the earth firmly over the roots of the plants with your foot. If not clearly described this is easy to do, and a man and a boy can set four or five thousand plants, in a day in good shape.

Your field planted, cultivate carefully and thoroughly, but very shallow next the plants. Do this all summer, let no weeds grow. Let as many runners grow as will make a narrow matted row; cut the balance; keep the middle clear all the time; mulch in the fall heavily between the rows, lightly over the plants. Don't disturb them in the spring.

If you pick for market, pick every day; put no poor ones in the boxes. If you eat these berries you will be glad you planted them; if you sell them, I hope you will get well paid for it.