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Farm and Dairy is in an excellent position to champion the cause of the farmer in Canada, because it is owned and controlled exclusively by farmers.

HORTICULTURE

Cover the Strawberry Bed

UNLESS the strawberry bed is covered, a great many people are likely to find that their plants have received winter injury. The lack of this attention is the cause of nearly 50 per cent of the failures. As soon as the ground freezes cover the plants with coarse straw, coarse manure or something else, to prevent the frost from heaving out the plants, breaking their roots and destroying the crowns. If the new growth in the spring cannot easily work its way up through the mulch it is necessary to remove a part of it. If the mulch is removed early in the spring strawberries will make a much earlier start, hence will produce fruit much earlier. Covering strawberries is a method commercial growers use in checking their plants

from starting too early in the spring. However, it is advisable to leave part of the mulch. It will form a covering beneath the plants and keep the berries from touching the earth, and prevent the rain from splattering them with sand and dirt.—J. B. P.

Fall Garden Work

A. D. Martin, Essex Co., Ont.

ONE of the things which has been most forcibly impressed upon the experienced gardener is the advisability of careful preparation in the fall for the next season's gardening operations. I have found that if the decision to have a garden has not been made until spring, hurried preparations and delayed planting usually result. Of course this is better than no garden at all, but the garden is much surer of being started under favorable conditions if preparations are made for the season's campaign the fall before.

It will be found that a small area highly fertilized, well cultivated and extensively cropped, will give more

satisfactory results than a large area poorly fertilized and only half tilled. It is unwise to undertake a large home garden that can be properly cared for. As a rule the farm garden does not cover an area of over half an acre. It is noticeable that the corn fields receive a fair application of manure while the garden plot is neglected. Garden crops will respond to liberal fertilization as well as field crops. In my opinion 40 tons of good barnyard manure per acre is not too much.

A great many people like to follow the practice of manuring their garden in the fall before plowing. For myself I prefer plowing the plot first and then spreading the manure on the fall plowed land. It becomes more thoroughly incorporated with the soil. With good thorough cultivation in the spring the plowed land and the manure can be thoroughly mixed.

To get large yields of stalks for silage the beds must be liberally fertilized. Cleanings from the poultry house is an excellent fertilizer for this purpose. Those growing small plots for their own household need not go to the expense of purchasing commercial fertilizers if they have plenty of manure from the poultry house or stable. Extensive growers use a commercial fertilizer composed of about 300 lbs. of nitrate of soda, 400 lbs. muriate of potash, 700 lb. tankage, and 600 lbs. acid phosphate. This is usually applied at the rate of one ton per acre as a supplement to barnyard manure.

I do not think that it is advisable to keep one plot too long for the home garden and usually change one every three or four years. Garden land needs a rotation as well as any other. It will be wonderfully benefited if seeded down to clover now and then. If the old plot is to be used again all the old vines, potato tops, corn stalks and other rubbish should be picked up and burned. This kind of rubbish is sure to harbor insects and plant diseases of various kinds, which will be carried through the winter if allowed to remain unburned.

Time to Cover Raspberries

RASPERRY canes are not immune from winter injury. A little extra care in covering may make a difference between a full crop and a partial one. Now is the time to cover the bushes before the ground freezes.

If the bushes have not already been thinned out, cut out all but ten or twelve canes. Bend the canes over by taking hold of the middle of the canes with the left hand, and with the right hand grasp the same one close to the ground and bend them slowly over. This will prevent the breaking of the canes, which are very brittle. Begin at one end of the row and bend the canes and cover in one direction.

Pulverize the soil so that there will be no air spaces around the canes. If air-holes are left the canes dry out and are subject to freezing and thawing during the winter and spring, with the result that many canes will die. If the work is well done, four to five inches of soil is sufficient.—J. B. P.

Our Frontispiece

ON the front cover of Farm and Dairy this week appears the likeness of Financial Sensation 153793. A half interest in this young Jersey bull was recently purchased by the Graystone Jersey Farm, Inc., West Chester, Pa., for \$30,000. The half interest retained by the owners of Waterloo Jersey Farm, Waterloo, Iowa, is valued at \$30,000, making Financial Sensation a \$60,000 bull. The half interest sold brought \$5,000 more than has ever been paid for any Jersey bull, and this animal is the second highest priced bull of any breed.



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