

to the depth of six inches with dry, clean hay.

And now little can be done but wait for the mushrooms to appear, which may be expected in about six weeks. When they begin to appear a nice moist atmosphere should be maintained. Some do this by sprinkling tepid water on the hay covering from a very fine rose, just sufficient to moisten it, as if by a heavy autumnal dew; while others distribute pans of water sufficient to keep up the requisite degree of moisture by evaporation from the pans. When a considerable crop of mushrooms has been harvested, and the bed shews symptoms of exhaustion, a good watering with tepid water, just once applied, will start the mushrooms again, and in this manner the bed may be kept yielding mushrooms for about three months.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Will you be so good as to inform us in next *Horticulturist* as to which strawberries combine *productiveness, sweetness and fitness for growing in heavy clay soil.*

I have a Concord grape, ten years old, which neither grows nor fruits (does not cover four feet of trellis), while Salem and Creveling either side grow luxuriantly and fruit reasonably well. What is the matter? Had I not better dig it out? And will it do to replant another grape in the same spot?

As elsewhere, apples were a short crop in this region last season. But *Russets* and *Baldwins* stood out conspicuous for full bearing amid otherwise scantily fruiting orchards.

Goderich, Feb. 3, 1883.

RUSTIC.

REPLY.—You will find Charles Downing, Triumph de Grand, President Wilder, Jucunda, Forest Rose, Sharp-

less and Springdale to thrive on rich clay loam. Surely among these you will find some that will suit your taste for sweetness.

There is surely something wrong at the root of your Concord vine. Dig it up and see what you can find. It may be the soil is not suitable, or insects are preying on the root. You might try the vine in another spot, and see if it will do any better; this more as a matter of curiosity than profit, for a young healthy vine will be worth more than this stunted plant. Yes, try another variety in the place where the Concord now stands, and see how it will behave.—Ed. *Can. Hort.*

#### THE CURRANT-WORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST :

I notice the remedy recommended in your January number for the cabbage-worm pest, and mean to try it, as I have been obliged to give up growing cauliflower on account of the ravages of the worm. For years past, however, I have kept my currant and gooseberry bushes clear of the worm by liberally mulching the bushes with tobacco-stems as early in the spring as the ground will work, first spading in some compost, and, after levelling off, laying a thickness of about fifteen inches of the stems under each bush. This mulch is beneficial to the bushes, keeping the ground moist, while the potash contained in the stems serves as a fertilizer. My bushes make vigorous growth, bear well, and are under this treatment proof against the worms. I get any quantity of stems I want from a local tobacco factory without charge.

Yours truly,

H. PRIMROSE.

Pictou, Nova Scotia.

[NOTE.—We trust that our correspondent will give the result of his trial to the readers of the *Canadian Horticulturist*.]