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In order to be successful in strawberry growing, four essentials are necessary, namely, good plants, good drainage, deep culture, and heavy manuring. When these are properly combined the plants soon become established, sending their roots deeply down in search of food and moisture. Thorough preparation of the land before planting is of paramount importance. Drain where necessary, then bastard-trench, or plough and subsoil-plough, working in manure at the same time. All growers consider stable manure the best where available, but where artificial fertilisers are applied they must be such as will induce healthy, vigorous growth, and at the same time are rich in potash. It may be said of the strawberry, the heavier the dressing of manure applied the heavier the crop, and the longer the plants will remain in a healthy bearing condition.

FERTILISING THE SOIL.

(*Brother Jonathan Series, No. 3.*)

It is of the greatest importance that the soil be rich if profitable results are expected in strawberry growing. One of the most economical methods of getting the soil in good condition is by means of growing and turning under green leguminous crops, crops of the pea, bean and clover family. This means that the grower must begin the preparation of his land several seasons before the berries are to be grown. It is cheaper to get the soil rich and also mellow by this means than by the exclusive use of fertilisers of any other kind.

Clover is one of the best plants to grow for this purpose in soils where a good stand of clover can be secured. It should be allowed to occupy the ground two years and then the stubble should be turned under. The clover roots deeply, and thereby mellows the soil and airs it out to a good depth. It also brings up fertilisers from lower down than most field crops grow. Much of this fertility is left near the surface of the soil when the stubble is turned under. The greatest value of the clover, however, lies in its ability to get its nitrogen from the air. Nitrogen is the most expensive fertilising element to secure, if purchased as a fertiliser, and it is the most difficult to hold in the soil. The clover gets it free from the air and adds it to the soil when its roots and stubble are ploughed.

Where clover will not do well, or where one can wait only one season to get the soil ready, some other crop of the same family, which will finish its growth in a year, may be used. Toward the south the cow pea is one of the best. This plant will thrive on soil so worn that a stand of clover cannot be secured. It gets its nitrogen from the air the same as clover and it also mellows the soil, leaving it in fine condition to be worked. In the north the Canada field pea is sometimes used. Peas will enrich the soil more if the whole crop is turned under after it has fully gotten its growth. It is sometimes wise, however, to cut the crop for hay or pasture it and turn under only the stubble.

Barnyard manure is one of the best fertilisers, where it can be obtained in sufficient quantity. It is a complete fertiliser, supplying all the necessary elements of plant growth. Aside from this, it renders the soil mellow and