

* Open Letters. *

Leading Varieties of Strawberries in California.

In the Sacramento region the variety that is most extensively cultivated is the *Triomphe de Gand*. In all probability this is the most superior shipping variety of strawberry that is cultivated. It is shipped by the carload from the Sacramento Valley to New York, Chicago and many other distant markets. The *Triomphe de Gand* is a very vigorous grower, of a large size, and a very beautiful red color, and of a splendid flavor. It is very productive.

The *Jessie Strawberry*, which is in many places pronounced a fraud and swindle, is a grand success here and is very extensively planted. It is not noted for shipping qualities, but its flavor is the best.

Another grand variety, which is at present little known, is the *Australian Everbearing* or *Crimson Strawberry*. This wonderful variety was introduced from Australia, eight years ago, by E. J. Baldwin. It is now very extensively cultivated in the San Gabriel Valley in Southern California. It is undoubtedly the earliest strawberry in cultivation, and the most profitable everbearing strawberry cultivated. In Southern California it is never without fruit. The berries are of a large size, resembling the *Monarch* of the West in shape, they are of an exceedingly beautiful crimson in color, are very firm and deliciously flavored; this variety is a remarkable shipper, and is shipped in vast quantities from Los Angeles to all parts of the country. The strawberry growers of Los Angeles County realize immense profits from this variety, the present season twenty-five cents per lb., clear of all expenses. The *Australian Everbearing* will yield two good crops the same season that the plants are set out; the first crop of fruit will not be large in size, but as the plants get more firmly established the fruit will increase in size. In the winter, and late in the fall, the fruit is white on the underside, of course this is caused by the temperature of the weather.

Cloud's Seedling is a splendid shipping variety and does well on the Pacific coast.

The *Oregon Everbearing* also gives very good results and should be more extensively cultivated.

The *California Everbearing* is a very superior variety in all respects, the plants are of the very largest size, as is also the blossom, which is perfect. The fruit is of an immense size, of a beautiful glowing red color, very firm, and possessed of a rich, sweet, delicious flavor; this variety is exceedingly productive, and yields its immense fruits until killed by frosts.

The *Honey Strawberry*, or *Red Alpine*, is another wondrously productive variety; the fruit is of small to medium size, very highly colored, a glowing crimson, and possessed of a delightful fragrance, and a spicy aromatic flavor, which makes it an unrivalled variety for table use.

This variety is ever-bearing, and in favorable climates, will bear fruit all season long.

S. L. WATKINS,

Grizzly Flats, El Dorado Co, California.

The Plants.

SIR,—Many thanks for Alfred Colomb rose kindly sent me, which I have planted in a pot in meantime. The blue spruce and strawberry plants you sent me in spring I gave to Mr. William Rose of this place, as I have no ground here of my own; he reports them doing well. Apples and plums about here promise fairly. Wild small fruits are abundant.

WM. H. WYLIE, *Marmora.*

SIR,—I ought sooner to have acknowledged your kindness in sending the plant I requested, with the addition of two fine strawberry plants. All came in good order, and are growing well. I heartily thank you for your prompt and generous favors.

FRANCIS COLEMAN, *Hamilton, Ont.*