

This should be done as early in the spring as the ground will admit of being worked. The plants, after planting, may stand for twenty days without any attention. Then cultivate the same way that you intend your rows to run; ten days later cultivate crosswise, following with the hoe, and being careful to remove every little weed, for if a weed is left until your hoe comes again, it will be large enough to disturb your plant being pulled. They now should be cultivated every ten days, one way, and should be hoed every time you cultivate crosswise, which would bring the hoeing every twenty days. As soon as the average plant has runners long enough to take root, the cultivator should be stopped crosswise, and the runners placed by hand one half each way. Put a little earth on them to keep the high winds from blowing them out of place. Then run the cultivator the one way every fifteen days, until the ground freezes up or becomes too wet with the fall rains to work longer.

I suppose it will be expected that I say something on the care of the plants during the winter. Young plants should be covered lightly with straw as soon as the ground freezes enough to admit of drawing the straw. This should be removed in the spring as soon as the plants show signs of growth. No more straw should be taken off them than to allow the plants to come up through without doubling their leaves. This will injure your plants.

I do not approve of spring hoeing and cultivating if the foregoing plan has been perfectly carried out. If this has not been done then there may be some excuse for spring culture. Now I must leave the plants until after the fruit has been gathered and marketed, as that does not come under the head of strawberry culture.

As soon as the last berries are picked, the plow should be put in and a furrow about four inches deep should be thrown each way from the row, leaving twelve inches. The weeds should then be removed with as little disturbance to the plants as possible.

In about twenty days (if it be not too dry) the earth may be put back, and the centre of the row well worked until it becomes too wet in the fall to work. I have cultivated with good effect in the first week in December. But it is seldom that it is dry enough on any heavy land to cultivate even in November.

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HOME MARKETS FOR FRUITS.—J. C. Gould: If we are to sell our fruit at home we must have enough fruit to get buyers to come. It was about three years ago before we could get them to come to Lawton, but now we find we can do better than to ship it. E. C. Reid: As Secretary of the State Horticultural Society, I have numerous inquiries as to where fruit can be bought. The number of buyers coming here is increasing, and, if we work the matter up judiciously, the buyers will all come and we will get better prices from the direct competition; and it is more satisfactory to sell your fruit at home and get your money.—*Discussions Michigan Fruit Growers.*