

and cultivator in a few minutes when you have been cultivating corn, potatoes or other vegetables and never miss the time; while if they were planted in some out of the way place they would often go without cultivation until the weeds got such a start that they could afterwards be cleaned out and cared for only with great difficulty. This is often the cause of failure. It is preferable to select a piece of land sufficiently large to admit of future plantings along one side.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

If a clay or sandy loam or a one year old clover sod, it should be well ploughed in the autumn. If a light sandy loam, plough in early spring. After ploughing, top work the soil thoroughly in the spring as soon as the weather and the condition of the soil will permit. Cultivate deep with a two-horse cultivator and harrow down smooth. If the soil requires manure, apply well rotted barn-yard manure just before cultivating and harrowing. The manure should be well mixed with the top soil but not plowed under. A stiff, heavy loam may have an application of coarse barn-yard manure in the fall before plowing. If the soil is stiff or heavy, it should be trenched up in the autumn by turning two furrows together, forming a sharp ridge as when prepared for carrots or other roots. When thus exposed to the action of the frost a comparatively heavy soil will work down fine and mellow in the spring and give good results. Care must be taken, however, never to stir such soil when wet, either with plow, hoe or cultivator. Surface drains should be made to take off surplus water quickly.

PLANTING.

This should be done as early in the spring as the soil can be prepared as directed above. Mark off the rows with a corn marker about four feet apart. If a marker is not at hand stretch a cord to plant by. Take pains to have the rows straight and of equal distance apart. It adds to the appearance of the plot, and time is saved in the cultivation. Procure plants of the previous year's growth, trim off all old runners and dead leaves and shorten the roots to about four inches. Keep the plants moist and where the wind cannot reach them while out of the ground. This can easily be done by placing them in a pail or box and covering slightly with soil and taking them out only as fast as required for planting. When planting make a hole with a spade crosswise of the mark and deep enough to admit the roots without doubling them up. This is quickly done by shoving the spade straight down and pushing it backward two or three inches. Take the plant in the left hand, spread out the roots fan-shaped, place the crown on a level with the surrounding soil, fill in and work the soil well in among the roots and press so firmly that by giving a quick jerk on a leaf it will break off without moving the plant.