

BULB CULTURE.

and the berry is very firm ; one of the best characteristics is, that it will stand wet weathers splendidly ; there are many varieties of berries that the least bit of wet weather, or a few hours rain, will destroy. I sometimes think the Magoon would stand a week's wet weather, if not too ripe. The Magoon is the most productive new sort that we have ever tested. The Mexican strawberry we believe to be the most productive of all the well tested sorts. The record of the Magoon strawberry is very good, single plants by high culture, have yielded during the season, 9 lbs. of fruit. The Magoon is also a very safe berry, as it will stand extreme heavy frosts, and still yield a good crop ; the heavy foliage helps to protect the blossoms wonderfully. As a shipping berry, this sort equals the Dollar strawberry, and this sort is the standard

of excellence, as a long distance shipper. The blossom is perfect, and the foliage free from rust ; these plants form enormous stool plants, and are at their height at three years of age. We wrote a short time ago, an article on the Mexican strawberry. A couple of horticultural editors in America, because they had never heard of this berry, at once condemned it. For their benefit, and the ones who read their papers, we would state that the Mexican strawberry is cultivated by at least 5000 strawberry growers in the west, and that all the leading seed and plant companies on the Pacific Coast, sell and advertise plants for sale. People who condemn anything without knowing the least thing about it, are not very reliable persons to edit agricultural papers.

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WE think the best time to start this subject of growing bulbs is when you get the bulbs in the fall. We will give the readers of *THE HORTICULTURIST* a few hints of our methods. Having selected the stock you intend to grow for the coming season, get some good loamy soil which can be materially improved by mixing in a liberal quantity of sharp sand. Next select a suitable sized pot, and after washing clean and soaking it in clean water for a few minutes, place a stone or piece of broken pot over the hole in the bottom of the pot. Fill the pot three-fourths full with the prepared soil, then place the bulbs in and fill the pot within an inch of the top, pressing the soil firmly around the bulb. The hyacinth, tulip, crocus, allium and ornithogalum must, after potting, be well watered, and then be set away in a place which is dark and quite cool. Leave them there to form roots, this will take from eight to ten weeks. It is necessary that these instructions should be fully carried out if good results are to be secured. Leave the bulbs in the dark until the soil is filled with roots and they will then be ready to make a strong

and healthy growth as soon as they are brought to the light and warmth. Before taking the plants from the cellar see that the soil is full of roots. If it is not full, and the bulb is sound, leave it until roots are formed. Examination can be made by inverting the pot and slipping the ball of earth out without disturbing the bulb. The Mexican lily, narcissus, calla, and freesia, should, after being potted in the usual way, be watered thoroughly and set in a cool place. It is not so necessary that these should be placed in a dark place, but for the others four to six weeks in the dark is an absolute essential to success, because if the root system is not fully developed, the flowers will be a failure. If it is impossible to get loamy earth, any ordinary garden soil will do. If manure is added be sure it is thoroughly well rotted manure, as new manure will prove fatal to your bulbs. Add a little sand if the soil is lacking in that constituent. The last mentioned lot of bulbs must not be too freely watered until they have made some growth.—H. Townsend, of Desoronto Hort. Soc.