



Cultivating Strawberries on Mr. Walker's Farm. Mr. Walker and his Hired Man are Shown

plant will keep more moist and alive when lying down than when standing up, in which position it often wilts from the fierce heat of the sun. The plants are set four feet apart each way and cultivated continually until they become too large to allow a cultivator to pass through without injury. At least twenty loads of manure are applied per acre previous to plowing and this in addition to the portion given to each individual plant brings the total up to twenty-five loads, which is as much as some one hundred and sixty acre farms get in grain growing sections. Great care is taken to select strong, healthy, well advanced plants, before the early fall frosts. Chalk's Jewel and Matchless are the varieties grown.

The tomatoes are picked in bushel crates and drawn on wagons to the factory, a quarter of a mile away, the price being thirty-five cents per sixty pounds. The first few that get ripe bring a much better price, from a dollar and a half up to two dollars and seventy-five cents for an eleven quart basket. These tomatoes go direct to the cities to satisfy the early tomatoe hunger of those who are rich enough to pay the price.

AN EARLY VARIETY

Mr. Walker is constantly obtaining new ideas which improve on his past attempts. For instance he struggled along for years trying to perfect an early tomato plant, which would be certain to mature before the fall frosts, and while he has greatly improved on the old original, he still loses from one to four hundred bushels per acre from frost. With the idea of saving this he started to experiment with different coverings to be put over the plants in the spring to save them from the late frosts and to enable him to get the plants in earlier. The main difficulty was to get something inexpensive. After various experiments he has decided on cheese cloth bells on wire frames which can be manufactured for about four cents apiece, and which may earn their cost several times over the first season.

During 1913 the receipts were nearly twenty-five hundred dollars net, not including the amount received from plant sales in the spring, which amounted to over six hundred dollars.

Tomatoes Under Glass

In the annual report of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for 1912, the results of a variety test of tomatoes in a small greenhouse at the Central Experimental Farm were recorded. During 1913, eighteen varieties and strains were again tested in the same house. This house is used for ornamental plants as well, and only part of the space was available for the tomato plants. The plants were set fifteen inches apart in a single row on the benches on each side of a central walk, sufficiently far back so that a row of begonias could be grown in front of them. As they grew, the plants were tied to wires and kept pruned to single stems. Four plants of each variety were used, two plants of each variety being on each side of the walk opposite each other. The seed was sown on June 12, 1912, germinated on June 18, the young plants were pricked out in a cold frame on June 24, and planted in the greenhouse on July 24.

The plants made rapid growth and the first ripe fruit was picked on September 16 from Sparks Earliana No. 10 strain. Early in the season, the plants produced large clusters of flowers, the fruit set well, and there were prospects of a good crop, but, during the months of August and September, there was much rain and dull weather, there being 99.9 hours less sunshine than the average during August, and 108.0 hours less than the average during September. As a result there was a poor setting of fruit during September. By the end of that month the plants had reached the top of the house and, as there was practically no fruit on them except near the bottom, it was decided, as an experiment, to head them back to within three feet of the soil. This was done on September 28.

Most of the plants, though checked

severely, recovered from the effects of the heading-back and made medium growth again. On the new growth some moderately good fruit set, but the results obtained from such severe checking of the plants were not such as to warrant recommending it, as the different varieties did not recover equally well from the heading-back.

The yields obtained in 1912-13 are not reliable, but, as indicating the varieties which are likely to give the largest yields in an unfavorable season, and under such treatment, the following record is given of the six most productive sorts, the varieties tested being Winter Beauty, Industry O.A.C. Selected 1910, Industry O.A.C. Selected 1910-11, Improved Express, Sutton's Satisfaction, Sparks Earliana No. 10, Bonny Best, Sparks Earliana (C.E.F. 2-12), Chalk's Early Jewel, Dobbie's Champion, Dominion Day, Wealthy, Sutton's A1, XXX Earliest Scarlet, Cox's Earliest, Greater Baltimore, Livingston's Globe.

Last year, in a test of twenty-one varieties and strains, the most productive six in order of yield were Industry (O.A.C. Selected 1910), Sutton's Satisfaction, Industry (O.A.C. Selected 1910-11), Livingston's Globe, Dobbie's Champion, and Bonny Best. It will thus be seen that the three varieties which did best for the two years were Industry, Sutton's Satisfaction, and Bonny Best.

Potato Scab

Prof. E. M. Straight

If the soil on a certain area is free of scab, it may be kept so by paying proper attention to the seed, bags, baskets, barrows, plows, planters, cultivators—all of which may carry contagion, if they have been in contact with diseased tubers.

One of the cheapest and simplest disinfecting agents is formalin. Formalin is a liquid, having a sharp, pungent odor. It is a solution of formaldehyde gas, containing about forty per cent. Formalin should cost about forty cents a pint.

The formula commonly used is as follows: Add one-half pint of commercial formalin to fifteen gallons of water, stir thoroughly and soak uncut tubers for two hours in this solution.

Growing Melons.—The most suitable soil for melons is a rich, warm, deep, sandy loam, having a southern or southwestern exposure. The latter is to be preferred, as it gets the last rays of the sun and the soil is thus warmed up for the night, and being sheltered from the northern and eastern winds, holds the warmth until the morning. This makes several days' difference in the ripening of the fruit, which may be equivalent to quite a sum per acre in the value of the crop.—John Gall, Inglewood, Ont.