

## NOTES ON THE STRAWBERRY.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON STRAWBERRIES.



Four varieties of strawberries are separated into two classes, viz.: (1) those that continue a long time in bearing, and (2) those that continue a short season—it will be found that the most prolific fall into the first-class, and the least productive into the second. It is also true, in general, that the greater the number of pickings during the season, the greater the total product. It might seem that the aggregate crop would depend as much or more upon the quantity of ripe fruit at each picking, as upon the number of pickings. It would also seem that the varieties which ripen slowly would be more affected by dry weather, or other unfavorable influences, than those that yield their crop in a short time; but such does not appear to be the fact. A short strawberry season means a short crop, whether varieties are considered individually or in the aggregate, and the converse is equally true.

A variety that gives three pickings during the season, will yield about half as large a crop as one that gives six. This generalization refers particularly to varieties that have well fixed characteristics. Some of these variable varieties may, in many cases, appear to be exceptions. There are also varieties that have neither a long nor a short season, hence can hardly be classified. All things considered, the long season varieties are more sure and profitable than those that continue but a short time in bearing, and yield comparatively few pickings.

## EARLY AND LATE, COMPARED WITH MEDIUM VARIETIES.

Nearly all of the very early varieties continue but a short time in bearing, give comparatively few pickings, and produce light crops. The same is true, in a more marked degree, of the extremely late ripening sorts. The effect is the same as if the last pickings of the early varieties, and the first pickings of the late, had been destroyed; both early and late hold out but a short time." In general, the medium, or second early sorts, are these having a long season. Although not all that are found in this class are highly fruitful, it is true that the most fruitful come within it.

## PERFECT AND IMPERFECT FLOWERED VARIETIES COMPARED.

One thing is clear, *i. e.*, that the most prolific varieties are found among these having imperfect flowers. Nearly all this class are very prolific. Among those having perfect flowers, none are found that are extremely prolific; the Wilson and Capt. Jack being possible exceptions under favorable conditions.

Taking averages for the two classes, we find that the varieties having imperfect flowers, stand thirty-eight per cent. higher than those having perfect