

STRAWBERRY CULTURE

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It is doubtful whether there is a farm in Ontario on which strawberries cannot be grown profitably for family use, and still there are thousands of farmers that do not grow them. This should not be the case, as they can be grown with so little trouble and expense. Strawberries ripen during the heat of early summer, when such an addition to the diet is most healthful and necessary.

Many have been deterred from planting the strawberry from the fact that their culture is not understood. It is a common opinion that a great deal of work is required to make them succeed. When grown in the old fashioned way of planting in beds in a garden or enclosure this is true. All the work has to be done by hand, mostly at a time when the farmer is so busy with the spring work on the farm he cannot attend to the strawberry patch. The location of a suitable place for the strawberry plantation often has much to do with the success or failure of it. Especially is this true with the farmer that has but little help, and can ill afford the time to give them proper care. This class of farmers are very numerous and it is the purport of this paper to make the method of culture so easy and simple that many who do not now grow the strawberry will be induced to grow at least enough for family use.

SOIL.

Any soil that will produce a crop of corn or potatoes will answer for strawberries. A rich clay loam is to be preferred, next, a sandy loam. Avoid if possible a stiff heavy clay as much more difficulty will be experienced in making a heavy tenacious soil. Also avoid any land that has been in sod or pasture a number of years. The *white grub* is the most destructive insect enemy we have to fight in growing the strawberry. It is usually found in the greatest numbers in the soil that has recently been two or more years in sod. A clover sod that has had but one crop taken off will answer. If the soil is not naturally rich it will pay to make it so with either barnyard manure or commercial fertilizers. It should be well drained either naturally or by tile draining.

LOCATION.

Select some convenient place where you will have to go out of the way to cultivate. You can then go through them with horse