## A Start for Strawberries.

If any of our readers have neglected hitherto to provide their families with an abundant supply of strawberries in their season, we trust they will not longer defer the good work. The labor is trifling, the money outlay of small amount, and the following directions, which are condensed somewhat from the circular of the Messrs. Hance, of New Jersey, will supply all information needful to begin with :—

SITUATION.—Plots of land can occasionally be found which are always moist, without being wet, and the largest strawberries can be grown on such ground with but little expense; while others which are inclined to be dry will produce berries in size and quantity in almost exact proportion to the amount of moisture received. Do not mistake wet for moist land, for where water lies near or on the surface, strawberries will not do well—for that matter there are few plants that will. Good drainage is very beneficial to strawberries, and they succeed admirably, as a rule, on underdrained land. There are a number of varieties, however, that will produce a fair crop of moderate size on the driest soils and in the driest seasons, especially if well mulched — one of the best modes of retaining moisture— but in selecting a location for a bed it is well to choose one where moisture will be found a goodly part of the year, if possible. Thorough culture is another requisite to large returns. The soil should be thoroughly pulverized by ploughing or spading to a depth of at least six inches, when an application of at least two inches of well-rotted manure, which should be turned under and perfectly incorporated with the soil. If stable manure is not at hand, a heavy application of ground bone, wood ashes, hen manure, or almost any fertilizer except lime, will be found beneficial.

SYSTEM. — Pot-grown plants can be planted where peas, lettuce, radishes, or other summer crops have been grown (except potatoes, which unfit the soil for strawberries by the exhaustion of potash), thereby taking two crops from the ground in one year. There is also plenty of time to crop the ground with cabbage, cauliflower, celery, or other fall crop after the crop of strawberries has been gathered the following year. They should be set as soon after the 15th of July as possible, although a good crop will be produced the next June if planted as late as the middle of September. At this juncture the system of culture must be decided upon, but whatever system is adopted, if properly set, care being taken to make the earth firm about the plant, not one plant in a thousand that have been grown in pots will fail to grow. The two systems termed "hill" and "matted row" have both advantages, and neither are better for all soils and circumstances. Growers of "show" berries invariably adopt the "hill," as larger berries can be produced; while for quantity at least expense, the "matted row" is usually employed. We have noticed in our observations that growers on light soil have, in most cases, adopted the "matted row," while those using heavy soil, the "hill,"—owing, perhaps, in some cases, to the fact that it is with much labor that grass can be kept down on such land, when grown in rows. For pot-grown plants we would recommend "hill" culture under all circumstances, and "hill" culture for any kind of plants in gardens, unless the soil be exceedingly light and sandy.

## Cabbage Butterfly Destroyer.

The *Allgemeine Hopfen-Zeitung* states that the cabbage butterfly, as also its caterpillar, cannot endure the pungent smell of the *Anethum graveolens*, or Dill, and that not only the plant itself, but beds of other vegetables, such as greens and turnips, among which it is interspersed, remain absolutely free from the attacks of these extremely destructive creatures. Gardeners would do well, therefore, to have a few of these umbeliferous plants here and there among their crops. The Dill is most accommodating in his habits, growing freely in almost any sort of soil, and when introduced will readily be produced from year to year, without further trouble, by simple self-sowing. The ripe seeds of the plant can also be utilized in making spiced cheeses, or other preparations, in place of the carraway generally employed, so that it is worth cultivating for that purpose alone, independent of its protective power against the attacks of insect plagues.—*London Farmer.*

## Forcing Pinks.

A fragrant pink is always an acceptable flower, and it is always valued as a button-hole. There are not a great many varieties, but they include some very fine flowers, and they are certainly well deserving of cultivation. One of the most striking and useful is a variety named *A. Alegatiere*, raised on the continent, which cultivators class with the tree or perpetual-flowerfng carnations, but which we are inclined to put with pinks. It bears bright scarlet, medium-sized flowers, that are very freely produced. A dwarf variety named coccinea has very striking red flowers; but the dwarfest of all is scarlet Tom Thumb, which is admirably adapted for growing in pots to secure early flowers. The other varieties are Derby Day, deep pink, laced with bright red; Lady Blanche, pure white, very free and early; Lord Lyon, deep rosy purple, fine and distinct; Mr. Pettifer, dark centre with broad white edge; Mrs. Moore, pure white with dark centre; Newmarket, a reddish purple self; and Rubens, dark rosy purple.—*Land and Water.*

## Cineraria Hybrida.

Above on this page can be seen a cut of this beautiful perennial. It has generally been classed as a greenhouse plant, but has been found of late to succeed very well in the dwelling-house. As the seed of this variety is very delicate it is best to make several sowings at different times. The most experienced gardeners do this. The principal things required for the success of this plant are light, warmth, moisture, air, and occationally a little sunshine. The difficulty generally is that we keep our living-rooms too warm for plants. The atmosphere of the living-room is too dry. Keep the plants clean, with thermometer not over 70 or 75 in the day and 50 or 60 in the night. Syringe the foliage often, and never water the leaves in the house. By following the above directions the Cineraria must succeed.

---

For some sorts of vegetables, as lettuces, cress, radishes, and others, the Chinese system of keeping the soil continually wet is the best that can be adopted. It produces a crispiness in the vegetables that is obtained only when there has been no check to the growth.

---

SUITABLE CROPS FOR ORCHARDS.—Suel Foster says, in the N. Y. *Tribune*: Plough and cultivate your orchards — both young and old. Do not sow small grain and grass, but plant corn, potatoes, and other hoed crops. Sowed grain and grass grow the early part of the season, the same time the trees grow, then the crop is taken off, and sometimes the warm rains of August and September will start the trees to a late growth, greatly to their damage. Not so with corn or potatoes; their growth is mostly in July and August, the time we wish to check the growth of the trees. Therefore do not plow the orchard after July until near cold weather; then it is often beneficial to destroy insects, and to mellow the ground through winter. Buckwheat is an excellent orchard crop. — Harvest some where the ground is rich, but where the orchard needs fertility and mulching, let it fall to the ground and rot. Mulch the ground under the trees, not close around the body, but out under the limbs.

---

ALFRED ROCHEFELLER, a farmer of Kinderhook village, Columbia county, New York, discovered a number of strange insects upon the potato vines in his kitchen garden. Each of them was busily engaged in devouring a potato bug, and it was only by using some degree of force that they could be separated from their victims. Mr. Rockefeller secured one of them for purposes of examination, and describes them as being about an inch in length, in color black, having six legs, armed with powerful claws, and having a fan-shaped tail. He says they fasten upon their victims immediately under the wing, and do not leave them until they are dead. Farmers should be on the look out for these visitors, who may, perhaps prove saviors of the growing crop of potatoes.—*Chatham Courier.*

---

A SURE REMEDY FOR THE CABBAGE WORM.—For 200 plants, 8 gallons soap-suds, 3 ounces capsicum, 3 ounces saltpetre, 4 ounces borax, 1 pint, kerosene; dissolve the borax in 1 pint of warm water, then put the kerosene and borax water together, and let stand till the borax cuts the oil, then add all to the soap-suds, and sprinkle with a fine sprinkler. This will destroy all worms and eggs, and will not injure the cabbage at any stage of its growth.—J. M.