

might say, however, that I do not consider it necessary to work the soil to a great depth as has been, and is frequently, recommended. Five or six inches of well prepared top soil is enough. A liberal dressing of manure, the fall before planting, is advisable in most cases, being plowed in and the ground left in a rough condition during the winter, and this supplemented by bone meal and wood ashes, or sulphate of potash in the spring—sulphate is better than muriate of potash.

The soil cannot be made too fine and ought to be perfectly free of lumps, and before planting should be rolled or tramped quite firm.

The plot of ground for fruiting should be enriched and prepared as above and sown with radishes, early peas, etc., which can be got out of the way by the middle of August. A thorough digging and firming should follow after the vegetables have been removed, and it is ready for the plants.

Transplanting ought not to be done during a drouth if it can be avoided. Better wait a month for rainy weather, unless, of course, irrigation is possible. The plants are removed from nursery to fruiting plot with great care, leaving as much soil as possible adhering to roots. This is a slow and tedious process where one's time is limited, and for this reason the fruiting plot should be close to the nursery so that little time will be lost in moving plants from one place to the other.

Too much care cannot possibly be exercised in transplanting. When this is done the surface of the soil, an inch or so, should be kept loose to prevent evaporation until the mulch is applied later on.

Weeds and runners should be watched for and kept down. About the middle of September or earlier, a mulch of manure may be applied, covering the soil between the plants. I use partially decayed leaves for that purpose, and find them excellent. These when dug in after fruiting, keep the soil in

perfect condition. The object of this mulch is to protect the soil from early frosts, it makes further cultivation unnecessary and the top inch of soil becomes filled with fine roots without which a plant cannot do its best.

Protecting the ground from early frosts, permits the growth to continue much later than it otherwise would. After the ground is frozen solid, the whole bed is covered with a heavy mulch of clean straw or other suitable material, the larger part of which is removed early in the spring. I have found that a heavy mulch between the rows during fruiting is anything but beneficial. Thinning of blossoms may be a good thing and I have always practiced it until the past season, when my fruit was fully equal in size and quality to other seasons.

In making my fruiting plot, I plant in beds, with a path two feet between. In the beds the plants are one foot apart each way; three rows in a bed. One can work among the plants nicely when so planted without tramping on or injuring the plants in the least.

The varieties which have succeeded best with me for exhibition are: Marshall, Edgar Queen, Brunette, Sharpless, Woolverton, Greenville, Bubach, Wm. Belt, Nick Ohmer and Margaret.

By giving close attention to all the requirements of my plants, I have produced Haverlands, Warfields and Lovetts of such large size as to be almost unrecognizable, and I do not think the limit has yet been reached.

I make selections every year, taking a few plants from those which have produced the finest specimens, and propagate from these. In this way, I believe, I am improving my stock.

In growing strawberries, as in everything else, results are directly proportional to the amount of energy expended, and one always feels well repaid for extra work done in the strawberry patch.