

## STRAWBERRY CULTURE FOR DECEMBER.

pounds of acid phosphate, a heavy crop of fine berries will almost surely be made. The fertilizer should be applied before the manure. It is also good to use without the manure.

### HOW TO PLANT.

Plow the land well and deeply, harrowing if cloddy. Sandy loam will rarely need harrowing. Run off rows three feet apart. Two and a half feet will do if land is scarce, though it makes plowing somewhat more tedious. Sow in the furrow cotton-seed meal at rate of 300 to 500 pounds an acre. Mix it with soil by running cultivator or plow down the furrows. List in this with a light furrow from each side. Work list down very low with hoes or a horse drag. Set plants fifteen inches apart, or eighteen inches if it is a stout-growing variety and the soil is very rich. Plant deep enough to cover roots well. Plants

can safely be set a little deeper in winter than in spring.

Other fertilizer can be used. I recommend cotton-seed meal as being less likely to damage newly-set plants should it come in contact with their roots. But there is but little danger of this in the cool, moist fall and winter weather.

Kainit and acid phosphate can be applied at any time afterwards around or between the plants, and in quantities above recommended.

I often use a ton of cotton-seed meal to the acre, applying it broadcast and harrowing it in well before listing and planting. Still a barn-yard manure can be used to great advantage if likewise broadcast and plowed in. Where plentifully used no other kind of fertilizer need be then applied.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

*Kittrell, N. C.*

## PEONIES.

FIRST, they are man-catchers. Our good brethren delight in their big, bold out-lines and rich, warm colors. I believe in remembering the men,—they are half the world, you know. Plant liberally enough of the peonies so that you can afford to share with your friends. Have a white, a pink and a deep red one if you have not room for more. Your husband's friends, the doctor and lawyer, the minister and the editor, will appreciate one of these grand posies, especially if arranged with a bit of the old-fashioned ribbon-grass that nature seems to have intended to go with the snow-ball and peony. Then give that big,

awkward neighbor boy one now and then, or that rough-jacketed workman; it will do them good, and you also.

The second thing I have learned about them is that if one wishes variety without duplication, he ought to purchase his peonies all of one dealer.

Some people say to starve peonies. Our finest specimens are in the full sun, with half shade a small portion of the day, and the beds are mellow and deep; besides, we give a dressing of rotted manure each year, and have from the first. We have always found that luxuriant foliage precedes abundant flowers, hence no starving for us.—Vicks' Magazine.