

Now when seeds are somewhat neglected, weeds spring up and the coarser roots of the weeds taking up the superfluous water keeps the soil from souring.

We gave, last year, the result of an experiment a friend made with egg-plants.

One half the bed he hoed and kept clean from the start,—the other was left weedy for a long time, until the egg-plants had a fair hold of the ground. They were then cleaned and the crop was *earlier, larger and finer* than those particularly cared for.

We know that all such accounts excite the ire of the clean and careful cultivator. He is so embittered against weeds that he will not see in them any *uses*, only their abuses; and the philosophy of the past so impregnates his bones that he feels a sort of mental rheumatism whenever any new idea is propounded of a progressive kind. When he reads our remarks that even weeds have a beneficial effect in guarding the roots of more tender things,—we have no doubt he will imagine we are praising the management of that gardener.

"Whose days were all spent in yawning or slumber,
While his garden bore thistles and weeds without number."

And indeed there is no doubt many a lazy laborer might take advantage of the idea, and excuse himself for neglecting crops on the plea that "here the *Gardener's Monthly* says weeds are good things to have in a garden."

However, we are dealing with facts, and have to risk prejudice in our statements of them,—and we have no doubt from our own observations, that the grain-of-wheat man, and the weed-among-the-egg-plant, man have more of common sense in their practice than many of us, with old fashioned notions of propriety, are prepared to give them credit for.

All this has a close connection with this subject of draining pots,—and it all amounts to this, that the fibres of plants must be kept in a condition to have repeated changes of water,—when this can be done without "crocking," that process is unnecessary,—when it cannot or is not likely to be, crocking should be done.

BEST SOIL FOR GRAPES.—A loamy clay soil, in a limestone section of the country, produces the best grapes for wine, according to the experience of the best Ohio grape growers. Where the soil is low and flat under-draining is necessary. Hill-sides, or gentle slopes, are often selected for grape culture, on account of the dryness of the

soil. We should not be deterred, however, from planting a vineyard in any good, fertile soil, notwithstanding that we believe a loamy soil, in a limestone country, the best.

STRAWBERRY CULTURE AT WALLINGFORD, CONN.

THE Wallingford Community cultivates strawberries with great skill, and their reports are of interest to fruit growers. Here is their report for 1866 :

It is pleasant business to tell of great crops; and in making out our annual strawberry statement last year, we enjoyed that pleasure. We do not find exactly the same satisfaction in presenting this year's report, because the crop is so much poorer. Still, as it is our purpose to give as complete a showing of the business as possible, it is perhaps better to have a very poor season succeed a very good one, as in the case of the two past years.

The amount of land in strawberries, the present season, was eight acres and thirty-four rods, of which four acres and thirty-four rods were new beds that had been set the previous season, and yielded their first crop this year. The remaining four acres were old beds that had yielded one crop already. The cost of cultivation was as follows :

THE CROP.	Dr.
To 41 days' team work and cultivating.....	\$110 50
559½ days' men's work, at \$1.50 per day.....	689 62
159 loads of manure, at \$2 per load.....	318 00
37 bushels of bone-dust.....	37 00
Fish guano.....	5 00
17 tons of mulching, at \$8 per ton.....	136 00
Interest and taxes on land.....	57 49

Total cost of cultivation.....\$1353 61

The expenses of harvesting and marketing the fruit were as follows :

THE CROP.	Dr.
Cost of picking.....	\$305 97
Labor of overseeing and marketing....	132 00
Freight, travelling and telegrams.....	243 71
Commissions.....	171 17
Team-work.....	50 00
Wear of boxes, crates, &c.....	50 00

Total for harvesting and marketing\$952 85.
The returns to be credited are as follows :

THE CROP.	Dr.
By 12,165 quarts of fruit, at an average value of 37½ cts. per quart.....	\$4561 87
Plants sold.....	134 95

Total value of crop.....\$4966 82
Deduct the total cost of the same 2306 46

Balance of profit.....\$2390 36