

with the frost to a greater or less extent and damage the plants accordingly. However, I never carried the resolution out and am sorry for it, because if I had done so I am satisfied I would have had a bumper crop this year, instead of nearly a failure from freezing of the plants last winter.* There is not much choice of material; straw is about the only material available, but the straw we get here carries a great many weed seeds, especially thistles. If I was to grow my own straw it would be rye. I shall leave straw on my two acres all next winter. I never had any success with pistillate varieties. Have tried several. Seem better adapted to dry climate. They give lots of bloom, but wet or damp weather seems to prevent pollination of the blossoms and they drop off. I should never burn off the straw on a patch of berries as advised by some. Might possibly do on bottom or wet land, but it does harm on high, dry land to the plants; and I do not believe in burning anything I can put in the ground in the shape of humus. It is my belief that good berry land has been run out in this district by this method of mowing and burning the tops and straw, thereby robbing the soil of all the humus. Besides, the method is of no value to eradicate the strawberry weevil, as proved by myself and others that I have watched. By cultivation and rotation with potatoes I have routed the weevil off my place. I think mention of the soil is necessary to be of any information to others. Mine is high land, fairly good sand loam, with but little clay. I have been growing berries 12 years.

Samuel Smith, Armstrong: I think the Magoon is the best for shipping. For other uses I am not posted. I think the spring is the best time to plant, and I think the hill system is the best. I cultivate with a one-horse cultivator. I would certainly recommend mulching; short straw seems to me the best material.

L. Claude Hill, Burnaby: I find that location has a great deal to do with success in strawberry culture. Varieties that have done well with growers in Hammond and Haney have not been a success with us. It has taken us years of experiment to find plants suitable to this location and soil. For home use we like Sharpless and Jocunda; for local market, Magoon and Sharpless. We have not shipped many berries, but find that Magoon ships fairly well. The hill system suits this location, as we cater to the local trade and want large, fine-looking fruit. For cultivation we use Planet Junior horse cultivator, both 5 and 13-tooth kinds; rows 3 feet apart and plants 15 inches in the rows. All runners and blossoms are cut off the young plants the first season. Mulching is put down just before the fruit forms and is only used to keep the berries clean. We do not use any winter mulch. We find two tons of straw to the acre about right. After the crops are picked the plants are all cut down and the straw fired, leaving the patch after the burning without a green leaf and with very few weeds. The fire also destroys leaf blight and injurious insects. Cultivation then commences again. We use baled straw for mulching, which has to be put down by hand to ensure getting it well round the plants and under the fruit. We are always wanting new varieties and would be glad to get any samples that are being tried at the Experimental Farms. I might mention that Magoons and Sharpless have been grown here on high land, alder bottom and peat soil, with very good results.

* 1904.