

STRAWBERRY TESTS AT GUELPH.

plowed again, and put in as fine condition as possible with the harrow and roller. The rows were then marked out four feet apart, and cross marked with a fifteen-inch hand-marker. Twelve plants of each variety were planted, each variety thus being given fifteen feet of a row. A space of thirty inches was left between the different varieties in the same row, to avoid any mixing of runners.

Those of the plants that were of our own growing were taken from the plantation set out the year before, which had not yet borne fruit. Such plants are much more vigorous and thrifty than plants taken from old plantations which has fruited for one or more seasons.

The planting was done by means of a spade, which was thrust deeply into the ground and then pressed backwards and forwards. Into the cleft thus made the roots were spread out fan-shaped by a quick slapping motion, and the soil packed firmly about them by the feet of the planters. As soon as possible after planting the surface soil was loosened with the horse cultivator and hand hoes, and thorough cultivation was given through the season.

All blossoms were picked off the first season, so that the plants were not allowed to exhaust themselves in the production of fruit. All runners were allowed to set, forming wide matted rows, but each variety was confined to its own fifteen feet of row.

After the ground had frozen hard in the fall it was lightly covered with long strawy manure, which helped to hold the snow, and protected the plants from injury early in the spring by preventing their alternate freezing and thawing. When growth had commenced in the

spring, this covering was raked off the plants and left as a mulch between the rows. This not being heavy enough to keep down the weeds and properly conserve the soil moisture, an additional heavy mulch of coarse grass was put on before the fruit began to ripen. This kept the berries clean and retained the soil moisture while the crop was ripening.

Owing to the cold spring the plants came into bloom about two weeks later this year than last; yet, notwithstanding the lateness of the bloom, many of the first blossoms were blackened by the repeated late spring frosts. But this did not so seriously affect the crop as the extremely hot dry weather about the middle of the fruiting season in July. The showers following, however, prolonged the fruiting on those varieties which were hardy enough to withstand the effects of the preceding drought.

In the following tabular statements the varieties under the test are ranked in the order of their yield. In some cases all of the plants set did not live; where only one or two failed, this would not materially alter their yields, particularly in the case of the free running varieties, as their runners filled the fifteen feet of row allotted to them. The greatest number of failures were among the newly added varieties which came from a distance. Many of these will, no doubt, make a better record next year, when their yield will be from plants of our own growing. The number of plants which lived is mentioned for each variety, so that allowance may be made for some good varieties, which, on account of the failure of some of the plants, stand low on the list.