Fruit Department.

THE STRAWBERRY.

The strawberry is not only the most wholesome and delicious of all our small fruits, but is more easily, and on that account more universally grown than any other, and has been one of the most profitable, but is not yet cultivated to half the extent that it ought to be.

It belongs properly to northern latitudes, and though very little known in the southern hemispheres, is found in the temperate latitudes of both Europe, Asia, and America.

The soil best adapted for growing fine strawberries, is a deep rich loam rather approaching to clay than otherwise, thoroughly and deeply worked and enriched with plenty of strong manure. Sun and light should also have free access to wherever strawberries are grown, for whenever under the influence of shade, whether occasioned by surrounding objects, or by being too closely crowded together themselves, it will be found, that the fruit is much more acid than it would be if grown under more favorable circumstances.

The finest, both plant and fruit, as a whole I think that I ever saw, were grown on a very stiff piece of land, deeply trenched and thrown up into ridges in the fall, allowed to remain so all winter subject to the action of the frost, then levelled down in the spring and a coating of manure dug in; nothing could be finer than their appearance when I saw them the following summer.

The strawberry is best and most easily cultivated in rows two feet apart, and from 18 inches to two feet apart in the rows, thus allowing plenty of space for the roots to feed in, and also, a sufficiency of light and air for the leaves and fruit. A crop of early york cabbages which do not occupy much space might be grown the first year after planting between the rows—that is of course only necessary where it is an object to make most of the ground. The runners should be kept off by chopping them out, three or four times a year, and every fall dig in some short manure between the rows, and until the plants get thoroughly established, cover every winter with a slight covering of either leaves or litter. The object of this covering is principally to prevent the plants being heaved out of the ground in the spring, when the frost is leaving. Preparations ought to be made every four years, at the furthest, for removing the bed or field, which ever it may be, and that could be done by allowing the plants the last year to throw out some runners, and cutting off all except those immediately up the centre of the space between the rows; then the following spring thin them out to the proper distance, and dig or plough the old plants under. Cleanliness and thorough cultivation of the soil are the most essential requisites to ensure success in growing strawberries. By keeping these ends in view, and by having a due regard to the kinds planted, no one can well fail of being amply repaid for any labor they may bestow on this grateful and luscious fruit. It would be folly for me to attempt to enumerate the many kinds of strawberries grown, their name is legion, and each one of them has its advocates. For market gardening, the Wilson Albony is prefered. It is hardy, prolific, firm, and bears carriage well. There are numerous varieties having much finer flavors, and some growing to a much larger size. The Nicanor, Drhicine, Napoleon III, Juconda, and Triomphe de Gaud, are among the leading varieties.

It is pretty generally conceded I believe, that the American seedlings are better adapted to our climate than the varieties which originate in Europe. They are all of course propagated by runners, except the bush Alpines, which are increased by division of the roots.

ALEX. PONTY.

NICANOR.

As planting time is now at hand, we furnish you with the representation of some of the small fruits, as they have not yet come into as extensive cultivation as they deserve. We have in a previous number shown what large profits have been made from the cultivation of the Strawberry and raspberry. The above cut represents the Nicanor of which Messrs. Elwanger & Barry, of Rochester, who are the leading Nurserymen in Canada, say, that having fruited this variety for six years, and the last two years grown it extensively for market, we feel no hesitation in recommending it as one of the most hardy, vigorous and productive berry that has yet been introduced. The fruit is uniform, moderately large in size, roundish and conical, bright scarlet, quality good. It begins to ripen with the earliest, and continues a long time. There are none of this variety in this section of the country. It is the price that has prevented their introduction. They now sell at 25c per plant.

How Much Seed—Several Useful Tables.

AVERAGE QUANTITY OF SEED SOWN TO AN ACRE.

IN DRILLS.

Dwarf Beans	1½ bush.	Beets	4 to 5 pounds.
Early Peas	1½ "	Carrots	2 to 3 "
Marrowfat Peas	1½ "	Onions	5 to 6 "
Potatoes(cut tubers)	10 "	Parsnips	4 to 5 "
		Radish,	6 to 8 "
		Ruta Baga,	1 to 1½ "
		Spinach,	10 to 12 "
		Salsify,	10 to 12 "
		Turnip	1 to 1½ "

IN HILLS.

Pole Beans	10 to 12 qts.
Corn	8 to 10 "
Cucumbers,	1 to 2 "
Musk Melon,	2 to 3 "
Water Melon,	4 to 5 "
Pumpkin	5 to 6 "
Squash,	4 to 5 "

QUANTITY SEED REQUIRED For a given length of Drill.

Asparagus,	1 oz. to 60 ft. drill
Beet,	1 oz. to 50 "
Beans, dwf.	1 qt. to 100 "
Carrot,	1 oz. to 150 "
Endive,	1 oz. to 150 "
Okra,	1 oz. to 40 "
Onion,	1 oz. to 100 "
Onion Sets,	1 qt. to 20 "
Parsley,	1 oz. to 150 "
Parsnip,	1 oz. to 200 "
Peas,	1 qt. to 100 "
Radish,	1 oz. to 100 "
Salsify,	1 oz. to 70 "
Spinach,	1 oz. to 100 "
Turnip,	1 oz. to 150 "

QUANTITY SEED REQUIRED For a given number of Hills.

Pole Beans,	1 qt. to 150 hills
Corn,	1 qt. to 200 "
Cucumber,	1 oz. to 150 "
Wat. Melon	1 oz. to 40 to 60
Musk do.	1 oz. to 75 to 100
Pumpkins	1 oz. to 60 to 80
Squash,	1 oz. to 60 to 80

ONE OUNCE OF SEED WILL Produce of

Asparagus,	about 500 plants
Broccoli,	" 3000 "
Cabbage,	" 3000 "
Cauliflower,	" 3000 "
Celery,	" 4000 "
Egg Plant,	about 3000 "
Endive,	" 4000 "
Kale,	" 3000 "
Lettuce,	" 4000 "
Leek,	" 3000 "
Pepper,	" 3000 "
Tomato,	" 3000 "

THE NUMBER OF PLANTS, ETC., REQUIRED TO SET AN ACRE.

Distance.	*Number.*
1 ft. by 1 ft.,	43,560
1½ ft. by 1½ ft.,	19,360
2 ft. by 2 ft.,	10,890
2½ ft. by 2½ ft.,	6,970
3 ft. by 1 ft.,	14,520
3 ft. by 3 ft.,	7,260
3 ft. by 3 ft.,	4,840
4 ft. by 4 ft.,	2,722
5 ft. by 5 ft.,	1,742