

Canadian Horticulture.

COVERING STRAWBERRIES.

November is the month to cover strawberries. But don't do it until freezing weather sets in. Before you begin, go over them carefully and dig out all weeds, especially dock, plantain, clover and grass. A clean bed of strawberries in the spring is a beauty spot in any garden. Blessed is the man who has nice oat straw free from weed seeds this year. In this fertile valley nearly all oats were very weedy, wheat failed, and few raised rye. Hay is out of the question. Leaves lie too compact or where cold winds hit the hardest and they are needed the most, they blow off. What we shall cover with is a vexed question with the strawberry grower.

I have but one resource left. Fortunately I have tried it a number of years so have no fears of results. I go to town and arrange for enough manure to cover the entire crop. When freeze comes, I straddle the rows with the wagon and spread as I go, throwing the heavy between rows and the light on the vines. Should I fail to get enough at one time to cover the ground, I cover the vines and later on fill between rows. The rain and snow leaches the manure and next summer you ought to see my big berries and vigorous vines.

Objections have been made to manure covering on the grounds that it is too compact and full of weed seeds. The compactness can be obviated as suggested above. I have never had any trouble when thus applied. True it is full of seed. Some places it will form a patch of solid green in the spring. Especially is this true of timothy seed. But this is easily remedied, for seed roots start in the manure and not in the soil and a little ruffling with a hoe on a warm, dry day will kill it out. One hoe will do a the foulest acre in a day, so easily, is it destroyed. But, you ask, how let the hoe among the vines? The fact is that where the vines cover the ground there are no weeds. I have kept my beds clean for years with very little labor and I see no reason why any man of ordinary judgment may not do the same.

The great advantage of the manure covering is the benefit to the soil. It not only adds much to the berry crop and health of vines, but places the soil in fine condition for future crops should you not wish to continue in berries. When plowed under, there is added to it the decaying roots, stems and leaves. The soil also is well filled with fertility from the liquid leached from the manure so that the ground quickly responds and magnificent crops follow the berry crop. I have taken off 25 bu of buckwheat or 120 bu of turnips or a heavy crop of late cabbage or sweet corn from each acre from which on the same year I had taken from 4000 to 5000 qts of strawberries, and still leave the ground in prime condition for a spring crop. Why spread manure on naked ground when you can apply it directly to the crop and at the same time mulch the berries? This is more than killing two birds with one stone. So excellent have been the results from manure covering that I often adopt it when I have straw going to waste.—JW. L. Anderson, Ontario Co., Ont.

IN THE POTATO HARVEST.

One farmer has harvested 250, another 100 and 50 others 25 bu potatoes per acre near here. Why did not all make a profit instead of all losing except two? It costs \$25 to 30 p a to grow them and at 25¢ low yields do not pay. Buyers paid 40¢, but the stock proved green and unable to stand hot weather, so the price was reduced to 30¢. The one man selected a field suitable for potatoes. Other selections insure defeat before beginning. He manured the poor places and supplemented with fertilizer until an even yield could be expected. Two sp. its, vacant hills and missing rows make a hole in the final yield. He used good, strong, medium-sized tubers which would sprout quickly and were freed from disease by treatment. The others used all grades down to the ones too small for the wife to cook. He harrowed and used the weeder all the time he could, weeds or no weeds. This old idea that "one works only to kill weeds" is fallacious and costly. When the dry weather kept coming, instead of being discouraged and letting them

go, he worked the harder. "He will never get pay for all that work," was sneeringly said. They put on as little work as possible, from beginning to end, and had their fun at first.

The advocate of sowing potato fields without plowing, thinking harrowing enough; the farmer who leaves the path of hard and honest, timely work to hurry down the easy path, finds out the difference at the harvest and hardly gets day wages for himself and team. I saw one man digging potatoes with a hoe. He first pulled the tops, then cleaned off the dirt, weeds and stone, then dug the tubers, then laid down his hoe and placed the tubers in a ball, when the ball was full he walked about four rods and emptied it into a crate. Say? He could not dig enough to pay his board. The illustration shows my method of going at it. The boy and team plow each side of a row, turning away from it everything except the narrow loosened ridge in the center. The man with the hook can throw out the tubers with two passes of the hook and need not spear one. No attention need be paid to the tops. Crates are placed close enough so no carrying or running is necessary. Potatoes can be dug for 2 to 4 p bu by this method.—[C. E. Chapman.

EARLY WINTER WORK.

During the summer was an excellent chance to note the defective trees—those bearing inferior fruit, the worthless seedling, and others that are mere lumberers of the soil. Now is a splendid time to remove all such trees.

The tree planted in the fall has some months in which to adjust itself to its location and to firmly establish its roots before the call for spring growth is made. Spring often brings a rush of work that prevents setting the tree at the proper time, or else in haste the needed care is not given it.

If rabbits bother trees, a wash of soft soap or whitewash, to which are added sulphur and carbolic acid to make it offensive, and glue to make it stick, applied now, will assist in keeping off these pests.

The orchards are many that contain trees bearing a number of dead branches. While we will not question that it may have been better if they had been removed last spring, this is no excuse for retaining them until next spring. Cut them off this fall, and the sooner the better.

For fruit trees, the soil should be dry, either natural or made so through drainage, as they will not live on a soil constantly saturated from a stagnant moisture. The roots of the apple and pear tree run deep, and hence they need not be expected to flourish unless the subsoil is dry and porous enough to admit of the percolation of water. Let part of your fall work in the orchard be to see that it is properly drained.

If trees are tall and much exposed to wind, now is the time to drive a stake near it, to which it should be tied in such a manner as to avoid chafing. A piece of matting or cloth may be put between the tree and stake.

Trees pruned in the fall and desired for spring planting should be laid in trenches in a slanting position to avoid the wind, the situation should also be sheltered and the soil dry. A mulching of the roots and a few evergreen boughs over the tops will afford good protection.—[Hryan Tyson, Lambton Co., Ont.

Mix Your Apples.—When an apple orchard is being planted, different varieties ought to be mixed together in adjacent rows to insure cross-fertilization of the blossoms by bees. The Vt exper sta is just publishing the results of experiments which go to show that a majority of varieties of apples do not bear good crops unless mixed in this way. Northern Spy, for example, seldom or never gives a full crop when its blossoms are not pollinated from trees of some other variety.

When Pruning, take out the wood that seems to be in the way and that the fruit of which cannot be reached by the sunlight. Poorly ripened fruit is second quality.

Mc Salem Strawberry bed was one thick, matted row. Began to ripen early and continued to produce a large quantity of fruit to June 25. Salem berries picked late were finer than the average of the many sorts on my place and were in bearing 30 days with very little rain for 2 mos. The plant is a

healthy, vigorous grower, has a perfect blossom and is very productive. Fruit is large, roundish, quite firm and of good quality.—[M. Crawford, Northern Ohio.

Late Tree Growth.—The green growth that appears on fruit trees in moist land, after the autumn rains, following a drouth, is likely to winter-kill and thus weaken the tree. If two-thirds of this new growth is cut away after the leaves are off, the rest will usually survive the winter.

The Gold Plum is a cross-bred native and Japan plum of rich golden color and delicious flavor. It is one of the hardest plums introduced by the Stark Nursery Co of Louisiana, Mo, the seed parent being one of the best, hardest native American plums.

Cutting Back the top will sometimes renovate an old tree. The roots having less to do, will do it more vigorously. The numerous sprouts that result must be watched and the surplus ones removed.

Crystallized Fruit, retaining the natural flavor, size and form, and by many said to excel the French product, has been placed on the market by Mrs H. R. Monteth of Santa Cruz Co, Cal. About every kind of fruit is thus preserved in all its natural flavor and delicacy, with or without being sugar coated.

Dynamiting Stones.—To blow out large stones with dynamite, the tools needed are a long crowbar, a knife and a long stick about an inch in diameter to ram with. Use the crowbar to punch a slanting hole with, until it reaches under the center of the stone. Place from one-third to one-half stick of dynamite, or even more, according to size


of stone, as nearly as possible under center of stone. Use a long fuse so as to be sure to get to a safe distance after firing it. Then fill up the hole with moist earth and ram it down quite firmly with stick. Directions for using dynamite are given when bought, but it should always be handled with care, as it is dangerous. Never expose it to fire or heat in order to thaw it up; better wait until the weather is mild. A hard blow will also explode dynamite and it should not be trusted to inexperienced or careless persons to handle.—[Lewis Olsen, Kandiyohi Co, Minn.

New Brunswick.—Strawberries grow to perfection in Charlotte Co, the size being everything desired for a commercial berry and the quality unsurpassed. Some have been sold as high as 40¢ per box. Currants and gooseberries also do remarkably well. For the reader of F & H living where summer boarders come, the growing of these crops and their preparation in a tasty way is sure to pay well.

Healthy Rabbits.—Belgian and Flemish rabbits need much exercise. Long, narrow runs, say 5x25 ft, are best. The houses need not be costly, but must be free from drafts and with an ample outdoor run attached. Active rabbits do not have snuffles, rot and indigestion. Large run, small graveyard.

There was a farmer in my house one day. F & H was lying on the table. He took it up and after looking through it said, "This is just the paper I want." My sister asked, "Why do you not subscribe?" He said he "could not afford it." That farmer is spending \$15 a year for tobacco and every time he comes to town spends 50 or 75¢ for liquor. For such farmers there is no salvation. It's like trying to keep a pail full of water that has holes in the bottom.—[John Fryer, Charlotte Co, N B.

WINCHESTER



Repeating Rifles

repeat. They don't jam catch, or fail to extract. In a word, they are the only reliable repeaters. Winchester rifles are made in all desirable calibers, weights, and styles, and are plain, partially or elaborately ornamented, suiting every purpose, every pocketbook, and every taste.

Winchester Ammunition

is made for all kinds of shooting in all kinds of guns.

FREE. Send Name and Address on a Postal for our 164-Page Illustrated Catalogue.

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO., New Haven, Conn.

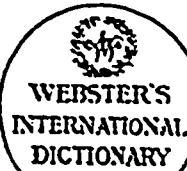
To the Canadian People

Farmers, School Trustees, Teachers, Professional Men, Women, Students and Others

Webster's International Dictionary

The Authoritative, Unabridged, Revised and Enlarged Edition

Printed this year, 1000. It is the standard of authority in all the highest authorities in every state, occupation and profession. The family educator. All school books and public education based upon it. Faces nearly 2000 illustrations upward of 300, size 10 x 12 inches. 17,000 words, 14,000, weight 14 lbs. one volume.



Teachers, do not only by the publishers, but also by the publishers, and by the publishers.

Absolutely Free of Cost Write this Letter INSTANTLY

Farm and Home, Montreal, Quebec. Increased and be in stamps for which please send me credit for getting the great Webster's International Dictionary absolutely free of cost, as announced in your paper. Add your name, address and state.

We do the Rest

A 20th Century Proposition

An opportunity that will never occur again in the lifetime of any person now living