

STRAWBERRIES.—OLD AND NEW.

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PROBABLY no department of horticulture has received greater attention within the last decade than strawberry culture. The production of new varieties by cross fertilization between those bearing the largest and those of the finest flavored, has engaged the attention of the most scientific and careful cultivators, until this noble fruit has been brought nearly to the ideal of perfection.

The strawberry, among fruits, is more than the rose among flowers. I love it. I have a fondness for the broad leaves that defy the frosty breath of winter, for the pure white blossoms that cheer us first in spring, and for the fruit that breathes the perfume of paradise. Man may construct steamships and railroads, disembowel the earth for ores, measure the mountains of the moon, and make his voice heard across old ocean, but *God* alone can make a strawberry.

There are many things to learn in connection with growing the strawberry, and the most experienced growers are always learning; still this need not deter the beginner from entering upon an occupation which is delightful alike for the young, middle-aged and the old.

Small fruit growing has many advantages over any other occupation. A poor man, woman or child can engage in it and become his own employer. Women have made successful florists, and can make still more successful fruit growers. The labor is light, pleasant, and healthful. It brings one in contact with nature when she is at her best. When wintry winds howl and the earth is locked in icy fetters, the fruit grower can use his well-earned leisure as suits him best. If rain stops his work it is little matter, for the thousand rootlets of his plants are working for him day and night.

In growing strawberries, use rich soil, give good culture and grow in matted rows, not too wide. Hill culture is not profitable for market purposes. Plant in spring. I would advise beginners to set few varieties, and such as Crescent, May King, Covil, Ontario and Mount Vernon for medium early; and Manchester and Sucker State for late. The first three are the earliest berries grown; the Ontario has no white tips. I was the first to fruit it in Canada, and those who have it with white tips have not the Ontario.

For others who like something large, beautiful, and grand, I will head the list with two of Crawford's seedlings, viz.: Summit and Crawford (not for sale); next, Jessie, Bubach, Logan, and Ohio. I saw the Jessie and seventy other seedlings alongside of it in June last at Mr. Loudon's home in Wisconsin. I have seen many a grand strawberry sight, but that excelled anything I ever saw; they lay in heaps there as large as the peach and plum, and not a small berry among them.

If spared, as I am testing over twenty new seedlings, and have fruited some of them twice, I will give to any subscriber to THE HORTICULTURIST who would like it, the truth, and only the truth about them. They do not get any favor shown them more than the ordinary kinds receive, such as Crescent and others. There are some of them that will displace many that are now pushed to the front. When the berry season comes, if spared, will be pleased to have a visit from you, Mr. Editor, or others who are interested in the strawberry.

My plantation is not large, but I have the largest number of seedlings in the country.

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