

and Orange Belgian are of no advantage to the "trucker" or farmer—the first named varieties being generally known and cultivated extensively. The Early French is the kind that is sold in bunches, being earlier and shorter than the other varieties, and these qualifications making it the most profitable to a limited extent.—*Hearth and Home.*

STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

BY A. S. FULLER.

Every one who has a garden should grow a few strawberries. It is a very simple matter to grow a moderate crop; but to produce it in abundance and of the best quality requires considerable skill and constant care.

The best and largest crop of strawberries that I ever raised was produced in the following manner: A bed, twenty-five feet wide and two hundred feet long, was prepared by spreading upon it twelve cart-loads of old, well-rotted cow-manure; the ground was then ploughed deep and harrowed down smooth and level. About the middle of April the plants were set out in rows, two feet apart, with a space of about eighteen inches between them.

No weeds were allowed to grow among the plants, and the surface of the soil was stirred at least once a week during the entire summer. Two or three runners were allowed to grow from each plant, and these were placed so that they would take root between the old plants in the rows.

In the autumn, when the ground began to freeze quite hard at night, the entire bed and plants were covered with coarse grass to the depth of two inches, after it had partially settled. To prevent the mulching being blown off, a few poles were laid around the outer edge of the bed. In the spring, after the severe cold weather was past, a man passed along each row, and with a stick parted the mulching just over the centre of each row of plants, so as to allow the air and light to reach the crowns and permit the leaves and fruit-stalks to grow up without hindrance. None of the mulching was removed from the beds: consequently the soil was kept moist and the fruit clean. This bed yielded a little over twelve bushels of fruit the second season after planting, which was the first crop; after the fruit was gathered, all the mulching was removed, and the soil between the rows was forked over, but no manure of any kind applied. The runners were not allowed to grow or take root except in places where there was a vacant space in the rows, and the next fall the mulching was applied the same as before. This treatment was continued for four years, and then the plants were ploughed under.

I have tried many different systems of culture for the strawberry, but none that has given so much satisfaction as this one, and, although it may be two expensive for extended culture, yet for the amateur who does not grow more than a half acre or acre, and desires to produce the largest amount possible on a given space, I can confidently recommend the above as being a system that will not only give an abundant crop, but the greatest amount of pleasure and profit. Many of the more delicate but large foreign varieties will succeed when treated in this manner, although they often fail when grown without mulching or winter protection.

"LET US HAVE PEAS."

The editor of the *Monroe Advertiser* confesses to an inordinate fondness for those delicious globules known as cornfield peas, and indulges in the following rhapsody in reference to them:

"Bacon and greens will answer for those unlucky mortals who have not a cultivated taste; hog and hominy is prime in its place, and 'devilled' ham is delightful; but how coarse—how tasteless—how insipid. O! unprejudiced gormandizers—what are these articles of diet when compared to a dish of savoury peas!

"We envy the fortunate individual who sits down to his first plate of peas! How exquisite must be his enjoyment! Reader, you are of this class, make haste to open unto yourself a new world of Epicurean delights. First, eat them boiled—cooked to a nicety; add a modicum of salt and red pepper, and corn-bread as an accompaniment; then, with a spoon, fall to, not with coyness, but with right hearty good-will, and we promise you beforehand a meal such as potentates might envy.

"Gentle husbandman, raise peas; allow no gregarious beast to tear the trailing tendrils or destroy the fruitful pod. *Pod*, did we say? Nay! the worthier name *Ollapodrida*; for are not these the combination of all the excellencies and virtues of vegetables? Are they not at once bread and meat and dessert—at once substantial and delicious?

"We imagine it was not altogether modesty which impelled that historical young woman, whose fame was heralded over our grandmothers' tea-cups, to carve each of her peas in two. How ecstatic must have been her enjoyment at dinner!—an enjoyment fully realizing Milton's idea of 'sweetness long drawn out,' and utterly beyond the appreciation of this materialistic age.

"Perhaps the legend which Ulysses has written upon his shield may mean something, after all. We call upon our agriculturists to respond to it. If there remains a spark of patriotism in this rebellious South—a remnant of 'aesthetic culture' among those Confederates who vexed their stomachs with mule-meat and hard-tack—we know they will appreciate our interpretation of President Grant's motto—"Let us have peas."