

## Horticulture.

### What Strawberries to Plant.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Will you kindly inform me what is the best kind of strawberry to plant, the time to plant, and the best method of protection in winter?  
Cobourg. M. F. R.

Opinions differ as to what individual variety is preferable to all others. For several years past the Wilson has held a leading place, and may be regarded as the best variety where prolificacy, hardness and ability to stand transportation are concerned. Where it is desired to grow strawberries for profit the Wilson is the best. It is worthy of remark however that, at the recent Ontario Fruit Growers' Convention, opinions were about equally divided on it (the Wilson), the New Dominion and the Colonel Cherry. Mr. Arnold, who has had very extensive experience, claiming a preference for the New Dominion as having "more of the real strawberry and less wood than the Wilson." M. F. R. will not go far astray in selecting either or all of these varieties.

Plant in early spring, and make the soil very rich if you would have an abundance of large fruit. Fall setting is also practicable up to about the middle of November, but it is of course attended with the risk of "heaving" should the season prove damp. The principal advantage claimed for fall setting is a larger growth of fruit for the first year, and, it is questionable if the gain is worth the risk.

Fruit growers appear to have agreed that straw furnishes the best winter protection. Barnyard manure, leaves, &c., have likewise been employed successfully for the same purpose.

### Growing Roots, Kohl Rabi, and Cabbage for the Farm.—No. 2.

The seed in this bed may be sown the last thing in the fall, so as not to grow—or it may be sown the very first thing in the spring, before the frost is out of the soil. The seeds will not grow till they are ready, but when once they begin, they will continue, as the glass will bring them on.

If the fly is dreaded, the seeds should be wet with turpentine before they are sown; or, as soon as the plants make their appearance, they may be well sprinkled with soot and water, the soot being from a chimney in which soft coal is burnt (hard coal soot and wood soot are not efficacious); a dusting with sulphur is recommended by some, or the plants may be watered with corrosive sublimate water—one quarter of an ounce of corrosive sublimate to four gallons of water; this will destroy all insect life, but it must be most carefully used, as it is a deadly poison; it must never be mixed in a metal vessel, as the galvanic effect at once throws down the mercury in a metallic shape; although poisonous, it never hurts the plants or makes them unwholesome. Or Paris green may be used, either with water or with flour.

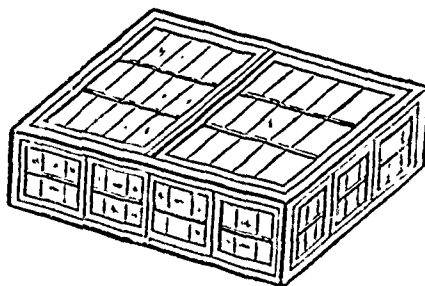
Any of these operations (if well done) will be successful, and will keep off all insect plagues—all the plants, being together in a frame, are easily cared for and managed. If the plants do not come on as fast as they could be wished, water them once or twice with water in which nitrate of soda is dissolved; make the strength of the liquor so that you can just taste the salt. The way the plants will grow after this operation will astonish any one who has not seen the effect of it. If nitrate of soda cannot be had, the nitrate of potash (common saltpetre) may be used with equally good effect, but it is dearer than the nitrate of soda. The quantity used is so small, however, in a frame sufficient for ten acres of plants, that it is almost inappreciable. By the middle of May the plants in the frame will be fit to set out, and will then have from six weeks to two months' growth on them.

The seed bed should be carefully hoed and cultivated, and fresh, rotten manure added during the rest of the season, so as to kill all seed weeds. Root weeds, in so loose a soil and confined a space, can be easily dealt with.

Annexed is a drawing of the frame and sashes—no strength being required to manage this frame, although so large; it can be looked after by a woman or girl, when the man is away on the farm or elsewhere.

Having thus followed up the plants from the time of sowing until ready to plant, we will now take up the land where we left it, namely, at the second harrowing, with all the weeds killed. You will now provide yourself with a dibbling machine, which is fully described further on. This machine makes either two or three rows of holes, according to the breadth and weight of it. It is drawn over the surface of the land by a single horse, and makes the holes clean and clear, and fit to insert the plants in. It will be seen from the description that these holes are all equi-distant from one another, and from its construction it makes them parallel to one another in the row; and when used correctly, it makes the holes also exactly parallel to each other in the cross-rows; it cannot vary, but leaves the spaces exact and at right angles with the rows lengthwise.

In each of the holes so made one plant is inserted always at the same part or angle of the hole; they will thus be exactly placed. If the growth of the crop is doubtful, from season or otherwise, two plants may be inserted in the two upper corners of the hole. This double planting would, of course, insure a certain plant and crop without space, and the writer has found from experience that such plants may be planted reasonably close together, and yet flourish equally well as if planted farther apart, provided a correspondingly wide space is left between the rows; but such double planting may require a hand-hoeing not otherwise necessary. To show the possibility of raising double plants successfully, the following may be instanced: At Portsmouth, England, where the finest broccoli and cauliflowers in the world are grown, the plants are always set out in fours; they are planted out in the fall, and each set of four is covered by a hand glass of about twenty inches square, one plant being in each angle of the glass. Here they remain, and are covered all winter. As the spring advances, the hand glasses are raised, first set on bricks, on the flat, then on bricks edgewise, then on bricks end up, and finally the glasses are removed altogether. By this time the leaves nearly or quite fill the space inside the hand glasses, the gradual



raising of the hand glasses has hardened the plants, and on the removal of the glasses the plants fall or are made to slope away from one another, and although so close, they grow to an enormous size, and finally produce heads of from ten inches to a foot in diameter of hard white solid flower; but the rows, or rather the groups of four plants, are kept from four feet to five feet apart, and if the ground is not excessively rich, even greater spaces are allowed.

Of course the ground is exactly adapted to the plants, and is made as rich as manure will make it, and the result of the crop is something wonderful.

By this it will be seen that we need not dread to plant two plants in each hole, if people prefer to do so. It is certainly not necessary. If sufficient space is left between the rows for the rootlets of the plants to spread and get their nourishment, the double plants will flourish.

SUBSCRIBER.

### Hen-Manure Water for Insects.

As every one is aware, gardeners who raise market vegetables, squashes, cucumbers, &c., as well as the smaller fruits, such as currants, raspberries, and even grapes, have always been put to their wit's end to devise means of preserving their vines and bushes from the ravages of spring bugs and worms. Plaster, ashes, lime, hellebore, Paris green, anything and everything, are freely applied, sometimes successfully, sometimes not, and it is not at all uncommon to lose half a season's plants ere the marauders have been conquered. A new remedy, recently suggested by a correspondent of the Lancaster Farmer, has, he says,

been tested thoroughly upon cucumbers, squashes, rose-bushes and currants, with the most gratifying success. The writer thus describes his mixture:—I throw into a common bucket-full of water a heaped spade-full of fresh manure, taken from beneath the hen-house roosts. Mix well, and apply from a watering-pot. A little goes a great way. It is thus sufficiently strong, and the effect will be discovered immediately. On rose-bushes and currants it should be thrown under the leaves with a large syringe. Upon ground vines it may be applied easily. I have found this so singularly beneficial that I now make the fact known in the interest of poultry keepers, that they may save the hen manure carefully. If they don't wish to use it on their own premises, there will be a market for it as soon as their neighbours try it, if they succeed with it as I have. And if it will destroy the potato bug (as I sincerely believe it will) there must surely be a lively demand for this often wasted article, should the "Colorado beetle" really show itself in this region.

The writer further adds that the mixture not only accomplishes all here claimed for it, but it is an excellent fertilizer. It must not, however, be applied too strong, or it will burn up the vines, leaves, and even stalks of tender plants.

### Potato Planting in Autumn.

In our number for May 22 last, we drew attention to M. Tellic's method of planting potatoes in the early autumn, and protecting them by straw from the cold of winter, by which means he succeeded in obtaining good crops of healthy potatoes by the beginning of the following spring. This system was adopted last year, as an experiment only, by M. Tourniol, President of the Horticultural and Botanical Society of Limoges, who communicates the results in a long letter to the *Revue Horticole*, from which we take the following remarks:—"The seed potatoes were selected from a quantity gathered in April, 1875, and were stored on shelves in a garret until towards the end of August, when the planting out was proceeded with. The workmen called upon to assist in this operation did so with many broad grins and much shoulder-shrugging, while the neighbours made merry by describing M. Tourniol as a most fitting resident for the locality, the point of which rather obscure witicism lies in the fact that his property adjoins an extensive lunatic asylum. In two months the plants had made stalk rapidly, when M. Tourniol was obliged to absent himself from home for a time. On returning about the first week in November, he found that his orders to tend the crop and cover it over with straw had been entirely disregarded—not a leaf was to be seen, the cold and the snails had destroyed everything above ground. Nevertheless, on digging up the soil, it was found that the experiment, despite the adverse circumstances under which it had been conducted owing to this neglect, had been a complete success. The first turn of the fork uncovered ten healthy potatoes, varying in size from a walnut to a hen's egg. M. Tourniol was triumphant, and his self-satisfied workmen proportionately abashed. This year he commenced operations on the 1st of June, and intends to plant out every fortnight till the end of September. We hope to be able to announce, in due time, that satisfactory results have been obtained.—*English Farmer*."

### The Plum-Knot.

From time to time things occur to make one believe that there is very little progress in practical knowledge, in spite of the progressive literature so freely scattered over the land. Old notions, long exploded, continually come up, and seem to have as ready an assent from certain classes as if it were the profoundest wisdom. But now and then circumstances arise which give us more encouragement, and show that our labors in the cause of enlightenment are not wholly thrown away.

The black-knot in the plum and cherry is an illustration. At first most fancied this was caused by an insect. But as soon as the phenomena were studied, it became clear that it could not be. The knots come out of old, thick bark, so hard and thick, that it is impossible an insect like a curculio could make the puncture to deposit an egg. There are many similar objections to an insect theory; the whole making it one of the most impossible things "possible," and yet because the young curculio and the young of other insects are found in the oozy matter composing the knots, there are people even unto this day that write and argue on the insect theory. The misfortune of this theory is that if it were true there would be little