

indispensable with the generality of fruit and deciduous trees. People are too apt to attribute their want of success in raising flowers and garden crops and planting trees to badness of seed or unhealthy plants, rather than to their own want of skill and attention to the essential conditions imposed by Nature. J. F.

STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

From the Port Hope Guide.

There is no reason, why any person who owns a garden or even a door yard, should not be abundantly supplied with this fruit every year. From a plot of ground seventeen feet square, it is said that more than two bushels have been gathered in a single season, which is a great deal more than most families require for their own consumption. But this can only be accomplished, by selecting the very best varieties, and adopting the most thorough system of cultivation. They will grow upon almost any soil, although a moderately rich gravelly loam is considered the most favorable. The ground should be dug or trenched, to the depth of two or three feet,—the deeper the better,—and the subsoil should be enriched, by a liberal application of black earth, or *swamp muck*, with a moderate dressing of leached ashes, slacked lime and old tan bark. The best mode of preparing a plot of ground for the purpose, is to commence by digging up the surface soil, to the depth of a foot or more, across one side of the intended bed, and carrying it by wheelbarrow to the opposite side of the plot, thus leaving or forming a trench four feet wide and exposing the subsoil. Then apply the muck, ashes, &c., to the trench, digging as deep as possible and mixing it thoroughly with a fork. Then take the surface soil from the adjoining four feet of the bed, and throw it back upon, and cover the trench. This will form a second trench which is to be treated as before, repeating the operation until the opposite side of the plot is reached, when the surface soil, removed from the first trench, will fill up the last. Then apply a dressing of lime, ashes, and muck, to the whole surface, working it well in with a fork, and pulverising the soil as thoroughly as possible. The bed is now ready to receive the plants. For early fruit, the land should face or slope towards the East or South; for late fruit, towards the West or North, although this will to some extent be influenced by the varieties selected.

The best season for transplanting is either in the Spring or the Fall,—from the middle of April to the middle of May, and from the 20th of August to the 20th of September. It is not prudent in this climate to plant them any later than the latter date. The beds should be kept clean and free from weeds of every description. Nothing but strawberries should be allowed to grow in strawberry beds. If the season should be dry they should be frequently and liberally watered. In fruiting season, the whole surface of the beds should be covered with cut straw, or newly mown grass, to keep the fruit clean and the ground moist; and in the Fall they should be covered with a mulching of straw, dead leaves, or light barn yard litter, to protect them from the severity of the frost, and from sudden changes in the weather, by which the vigor and fruitfulness of the plants would otherwise be injured.

The varieties that appear to be most in favor at present for *our climate*, and promise to succeed best with us, are *Hovey's Seedling*, *Hooker's New Seedling*, *Wilson's Albany*, and *Triomphe de Gand*. They all produce exceedingly large and beautiful fruit. The Hooker, Wilson, and Triomphe are hermaphrodites, producing blossoms, perfect in themselves, and requiring no other fertilizer. The Hovey's seedling, which is of the pistillate variety, producing only female blossoms, requires the presence of a staminate or male variety, and for this purpose, that old standard fruit the *Early Scarlet* is generally preferred. There are at present, some hundreds of different varieties offered for sale, by the fruit-growers and gardeners in the States. Any person desirous of growing the fruit on an extensive scale, would of course select for experiment, a great many more than those I have enumerated. In fact it is advisable for every person who intends to cultivate them, to try several different kinds, and when he has discovered the variety best suited to his soil and location, to reject all others. It is constantly found that a variety that succeeds admirably in one soil or situation, fails entirely in another: The Wilson's Albany, which is now admitted to be generally the most productive, has been known to fail entirely in some situations, although every care and attention has been bestowed upon it.

In setting out the plants, they should be placed in rows two feet apart, and from one foot to eighteen inches apart in the rows. The roots should be allowed to take their original direction and position as nearly as possible, and not thrust to