

runners abundantly; hill system for heavy soil and varieties that make runners abundantly; shallow, frequent and clean cultivation up to within two weeks of picking fruit. Yes, I recommend mulching in November with first frost, with meadow hay cut early, or straw. Mulch should be taken off as early in spring as possible; then put back under the plants and between rows after last cultivation.

W. C. Grant, Gordon Head: After ten years' experimental work with strawberries and covering some 250 varieties, we have discarded all except Sharpless for local market and Magoon for shipping. If confined to one variety, would select Magoon; it is the variety that is to bring fame yet unknown to Southern Vancouver Island growers. Under proper conditions of handling, this variety will stand up in perfect condition for a period of nine to ten days; it far excels the Clark's Seedling or the famous Hood River berry, as tested here. Fall planting has been tried two different seasons, with exactly the same results. We have come to the conclusion, speaking from a commercial standpoint, fall planting is not a paying proposition. Spring planting has always given satisfactory results. The hill system is the only practical method of growing strawberries successfully in our climate, owing to the dense growth of weeds during the winter months. By following the hill system we can hoe during January and February when weeds are starting out rapidly, especially from the 15th February to the 1st March. We plant rows 3 ft. 6 in. apart, plants stand in row 1 ft. 6 in. apart. Cultivate with 12-tooth Planet Junior horse cultivator and pulveriser combined, running the cultivator every week to ten days where the land is in condition up to the time of putting on the mulch, running the cultivator from one inch to one and one-half inches deep. After crop is harvested, run cultivator once or twice full depth to break up the crust that has been formed by the repeated tramping of the pickers. Mulch with oat or wheat straw when the first berries are about the size of peas; if done at this time all the fruit stems are standing up and the straw can be spread between the plants and no lifting of fruit stems is necessary. Pick the beds daily, removing all berries that show signs of colour. When the bed is properly picked, every remaining berry is green; if a trace of colour is showing, the work is not thoroughly done, and under good weather conditions any berry left on the vines with slight colour will be over-ripe by next picking. By this method the berries will reach the distant markets in prime condition and will colour up thoroughly, provided care has been exercised in picking and cooling the fruit off, etc. Cooling the fruit is of great importance, and must be attended to if satisfactory results are to follow. Place in a cool place over-night one crate deep with 2 x 4 scantling below each end of crates, and turn lid of crate with cleats down on top of crate; in the morning nail the tops on crate, and deliver for shipping early before the heat of the day has advanced. If handled this way and the berries kept in a cool place constantly, Magoons will be in good condition nine days from time of picking.

W. T. Hayhurst, Armstrong: As to the best variety of strawberry to cultivate, I give the following as my experience: Clyde is the earliest with me; it is a heavy cropper, good for home use and local market, but a poor shipper. Magoon comes next; it is a fine berry, either for home use or local