

another field which may perhaps produce a greater quantity, but which covers a longer and later fruiting period. In choosing a location for strawberries it is therefore extremely desirable that a piece of land be chosen which is warm and early, though well drained, yet not dry in nature, because the strawberry plant requires a good deal of moisture at fruiting time. Some growers continue the plantation for three years in the same place on account of the habit of the old plants ripening their fruit somewhat earlier than young plants. A difference of two or three days in time of ripening affects the financial result quite appreciably.

SINGLE CROP SYSTEM.

In the leading strawberry growing sections of Ontario, the practice of taking only one crop of fruit from each planting is gaining in favour. The plants are set in the spring in rows four feet apart and 12 to 15 inches apart in the row. The ground is kept scrupulously clean and free from weeds by running the cultivator between the rows once a week or thereabouts, till the middle of August. The blossoms are removed as they appear and the runners are cut off until cultivation ceases. By the end of the season, if a satisfactory growth has been made, the rows will have attained a width of about 18 inches. Strong growing varieties if allowed to run unchecked will exceed this width. Mulching the plants in the autumn with some protecting material is necessary to success in eastern Ontario and Quebec, particularly on soils liable to heave with the frost and in situations where the snow fall is light and the soil subject to frequent freezing and thawing in spring and fall. The plantation should always be mulched with straw during the picking season to ensure clean berries. In Prince Edward County, Ontario, a clover sod well worked down with a hoed crop and followed by a dressing of barn-yard manure is a favourite method of preparing for strawberries. When the crop of fruit is harvested the plants are turned under and the ground seeded to rye, or fall wheat with clover. Following a system of this kind a setting is made each spring. In order to provide himself with plants the grower keeps a more or less permanent bed in which the varieties he proposes to cultivate are grown in blocks by themselves. This insures plants true to name and enables him to make the proper mingling of bi-sexual, (staminate) and pistillate varieties. This system, while it appears rather prodigal in some respects, often saves much loss from the ravages of white grub and injury by leaf rust which are frequently most injurious the second year. The fruit is also larger and firmer on young plants, though slightly later than on two year olds. Yearling plants are also usually less injured by winter than two year olds.

RENEWING OLD BEDS.

The amateur may find it convenient to renew his strawberry bed by the following method: As soon as the crop is gathered, remove the mulch which was placed between the rows during the picking season, dress the interspaces with well rotted manure, or wood ashes, using the latter at the rate of 100 bushels per acre. If the fertilizer is of the nature of stable manure it should be well worked into the soil, if wood ashes or a commercial fertilizer, cultivate, or rake in lightly; then train the runners into these spaces. By the middle of September the young plants will have become firmly rooted. A line should then be stretched along each side of the row, separating the old plants from the new. With a spade or grass edging knife follow the line cutting the runners and then turn under the old plants with a spade, or if the plantation is large enough, a plough may be used. This plan will not work out successfully in the long run as the varieties become eventually much mixed, and the proportion of pistillates and staminates disarranged, by the stronger crowding out the weaker growing kinds.