

NEW METHODS WITH STRAWBERRIES

ALTHOUGH the ordinary methods adopted in strawberry growing are according to the inatted-row system and the planting of a new patch each season, there are growers who practice novel methods and who are not afraid to recommend them.

"Strawberries grown in hills," said Mr. W. A. Best, of Picton, "give good returns. The runners are kept cut off continually, and as a result only one strong healthy plant is left. This method, of course, requires more labor than is entailed by the ordinary culture, but the quality of fruit amply repays the gardener. An extra crop of only number one fruit results and a better price is obtained. Besides, the patch need not be renewed every season. Cultivation can be done both ways.

"In the matted row the runners take away the strength from the fruit, and as a consequence fruit of poor quality is harvested. Cultivation can be done only one way, and that only for the first season. The weeds are sure to come and compel plowing down after one crop is taken."

ANOTHER METHOD.

Some growers take several harvests from

one planting with the matted row system. "I have taken six fruitings in eight years off the same ground," said Mr. J. M. Metcalf, of Grimsby, to *The Horticulturist*. "The ground was put into good condition and as free from weeds as it was possible to have it before setting out the plants. When the crop was harvested the second year the whole patch was gone over with a mower. Then the plow was used, leaving about 10 inches of the old row bottom. After the plowing a good harrowing was given to tear it up well and destroy most of the weeds. The hoes were then used to complete the cleaning and the patch was treated as if newly set out in the spring.

"By this method it appeared as if the plants were all destroyed, but it seemed to set the young suckers to more vigorous growth. The quality of fruit on the sixth harvest was just as good as on the first. This process would not be thoroughly successful with all varieties. I have, however, had success with Jessie and Michael's Early. The plants must be strong growers, which will soon smother their own row and make good growth before winter sets in."

Small Fruit in the Orchard

ORCHARDISTS cannot afford to devote their land wholly to orchard purposes for the first few years after the young trees are set out. Different methods of using the ground are adopted in different sections. Some grow hoed crops, others grain and others some of the small fruits. The growing of grain is not to be commended, but the choice sometimes depends on the nature and condition of the soil.

"Where my trees are small," said Mr. J. M. Metcalf, of Grimsby, to *The Horticulturist*, "I always double crop. I like to have some of the small fruits, such as raspberries or blackberries there because the bushes prevent the snow from blowing

away in the winter and so serve as a protection to the fruit trees. Besides the berries get the benefit of partial shade, and that suits them best. Too much shade would tend to make them soft and mushy, but the shade afforded by an ordinary orchard improves the quality.

"I sometimes use, potatoes, sugar beets, carrots, cabbage, etc. Corn is unsatisfactory, as it requires too much moisture late in the season when the trees need all they can get."

If I were going to plant a vineyard I would set out Concords. They are hardier than any other variety, seldom missing a crop, while the quality is of the best.—(Adolphus Pettit, Grimsby, Ont.