

of leaves taken away; then stir the soil gently, and if necessary enrich by a top dressing of compost. If he wishes to propagate from any of the plants which he has raised because of their superior flowers, it can be done by carefully dividing the roots after blooming season is over and the seed has ripened.

Cutting off Tops of Strawberry Plants.

75. Does it work well to cut the tops of strawberry plants after they are done fruiting to keep them in bounds?—READER OF THE HORTICULTURIST, *Penetanguishene.*

Reply by John Little, Granton, Ont.

REMEMBERING the leaves are the life of the plant, it will retard the growth of the plant; but with frequent watering and keeping the earth loose about the plants, and an occasional dressing of wood ashes, not too much at a time, he will be surprised at the result.

In the west, where they are troubled with *Blight, sun scald* and *Crown-borer*, they mow off the tops of the plants, and when dry burn them off, and cultivate without any detriment to the plants.

Movable Fence.

76. Would you please describe the Movable Fence referred to in the report for 1886, p. 11.—H. E., *Napanee.*

It was Mr. Beadle who made the reference and he says he had in mind the common hurdle fence, well known to all old-countrymen, and made of various patterns in this country; they are easily taken apart, and moved as

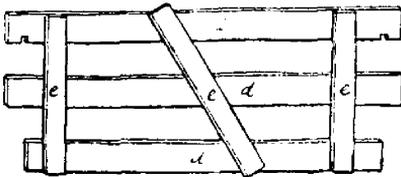


FIG. 71.

circumstances require. The *Rural New Yorker* gives a very good design for a movable fence in No. for June 16, which we copy. Fig. 72 represents the post which is made of an inch board 5 feet long and 8 inches wide;

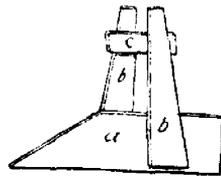


FIG. 72.

b. b. represent upright pieces made of 2 inch plank, of desired height, and *c.* is about 4 inches wide, and supports the top board *d.* of the panel. The boards

of the pannels may be 12 or 16 feet long, and the strips *e. e.* are 4 inches wide the middle one included to prevent endward movement.

Apple Root Grafts.

77. Will you be kind enough to let me know in your next number how Apple Grafts set this spring should be treated for three years. I have set them in rows two-and-a-half feet apart and eighteen inches in row. How late in the season should they be cultivated and how pruned?

You have set your rows too close, and you will find great difficulty in getting through with a horse and cultivator when the trees are three years of age; three or three-and-a-half feet would be better. Ten or twelve inches apart in the rows is far enough. Give good cultivation as you would corn, up to the month of August, when you should cease it to allow of early ripening of the young wood. Prune by encouraging one upright stock, but do not rub off spurs or leaves too closely up the trunk, or the tree will be too slender.

Pruning Small Fruits.

78. Should the young wood of this spring's growth of the currants, gooseberries and raspberries, which is most rampant, be cut back? If so, when, and how much? Wm. McM.,—*Niagara.*

THE young wood of raspberry and blackberry canes should be cut back when it reaches the desired height in order to produce stocky growth, and to develop side branches. Two-and-a-half or three feet is a good height.

It is usual to prune currant and gooseberry bushes in fall or early spring, thinning out the old wood and all superfluous branches, and in case of the former to cut back the young wood one-half or two-thirds its new growth.