

## HORTICULTURE.

A correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* says that he has found salt a valuable remedy for rust on the blackberry vines, and concludes: "I have up-piled two or three handfuls on the surface of the ground, in immediately over the roots, when the plants were badly rusted, in two or three weeks the disease had disappeared, and the plants has made a good growth. I believe moderate applications of salt, sown broadcast over blackberry patch, would be of great benefit as a fertilizer and health renewer."

## THE A. B. C. OF STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

The illustrious Becher recently said that the world progresses more by learning what cannot be done than by putting in practice any brilliantly conceived idea. Therefore in giving these bits of experience I do so with the hope of enabling others to avoid the errors that I made myself, for I began with A at an early age, and if years of practice are to count I am now pretty well along in the alphabet.

When asking information before I ever handled a strawberry plant, I was told to select poor, light, sandy soil as the best. I was told that fertilizers impaired the quality of the fruit and the plants would grow, and could be kept clean only on light land. Greater mistakes were never made, although the strawberry is such a good natured plant, it will take hold and make the best of things whenever placed (a most commendable disposition all will admit) yet it never pays to impose on good nature. It is true that plants can be more readily kept free of weeds on light soil, and this is the only bit of truth in the information I obtained. On the other hand the strawberry is an exceedingly gross feeder—a perfect gourmand so to speak—and not particular as to diet; stable manure, ground bone, wood ashes, hen manure, night soil, bog manure. It will thrive on them all, though it prefers to everything else cow manure, from its cool nature and abundance of nitrogen and one is not likely to give it too much.

The greater the amount of fertilizers given the plants the greater will be the yield and size of the fruit they will give in return.

Besides being a great feeder it is a deep drinker. By this I mean there are few fruit-bearing plants that require a greater supply of water, or suffer more from the lack of it. Therefore, the folly of planting on light, porous soil will readily be seen. For this reason, also, is mulching of great benefit to the strawberry, which I will speak of more fully a little later.

I have said the strawberry is a gourmand, and very much disposed to drink. These are natural habits and not acquired ones, hence good, and advantage should be taken of them. Were it not for these propensities it would not seem possible for the plants to produce the enormous crops that it is possible to obtain. Therefore in preparing the soil, not only should it be well fertilized and well pulverized, but prepared deeply—a foot at least and as much further as you will—for the double purpose of placing in the soil a large supply of plant food and to induce the plants to thrust down long roots deep in the soil to obtain it, and thus to withstand drought with comparatively little injury. There are so many ways and distances practiced in planting that I will at-

tempt to describe none here, merely suggesting that the strawberry plant is one of the easiest to make live and to plant in a manner that will admit of easy culture. They look very pretty in narrow rows when first set out, but alas! the weeds and grass will appear, and like bad habits, they are of a ranker growth and must be kept down or they will suppress all the good. If the patch is of much extent it should be planted in a manner that will admit of horse cultivation by all means.

Well do I remember my first strawberry bed. The way I planted it I could cultivate only with the hoe and my fingers. How hot the weather! How long the days! How restlessly did the scorching sun blaze down upon me while pulling the weeds from among the plants.

It requires a good deal of moral courage to keep all of the runners cut off, but such must be done in order to have fine fruit. Although easily clipped off with a hoe, there is perhaps nothing in strawberry culture so often neglected, both by experienced and inexperienced growers. The latter lack knowledge, the former too often lack courage to put their knowledge in practice. But the plants should be kept in hills or single rows at best, for an excess of plants has the same influence as weeds in a strawberry bed, diminishing both the size of the berries and the yield.

In speaking of planting, I should have said the plant of the strawberry is one of the easiest to transplant if properly planted. A very common error (and one I made to perfection in setting my first bed) is to plant too deeply. The fact that plants of cabbage, tomatoes, and many garden vegetables live and thrive better if planted deeply, perhaps leads to this mistake; at any rate, if the crowns of strawberry plants are placed below the surface they will decompose and die. In planting, set the plants no deeper in the soil than when growing, or with the leaves even with the surface. The roots should be straightened and placed their full length in the soil, pressing it firmly on every side to prevent drying.

To be successful in strawberry growing, as with everything else, the cultivator must be forehanded, and especially is this the case in planting, which should be done as early in the spring as the frost is out and the soil in a condition to "work," or as early in the summer as the plants have become well rooted.

Do not expect to excel everybody else at the outset; too many entertain such ideas and meet with such ignominious failures as to be ever after discouraged from making another attempt. In planting my first plants, no ordinary kinds would do for me; oh, no! and I planted wholly of the Nicanor, then a new variety selling at a high price; the result was that the crop was extraordinary only in its diminutive size in all its respects. I then planted Wilson and Agriculturist, and did "astonish the natives" in every truth, both by the size of the berries and the yield.

Begin with the old, reliable sorts; it will be quite time enough to court the acquaintance of the frivolous belles of the season—the novelties—when you have established friendship with the worthy matrons.

Let no one plant strawberries unless he will protect them in winter. Who would expect a cow to give a large yield of milk, or a horse to look and travel well if left

exposed to the inclemency of the weather? One might as well expect the best returns from his strawberry plants without protection. Not much is needed and most anything will do, for the strawberry is not at all fastidious; salt meadow hay, leaves, straw, chaff, or other loose light material is preferable, but shavings, pine needles, tan bark, or corn stalks will answer. Evergreen boughs are excellent; but the best of all is stable manure, as the soluble portions remain upon the surface and afford a protection.

Not only does this so-called mulch protect the plants from the cold and blighting winds of the winter, but keeps the ground cool and moist during spring and the fruiting season, keeping the fruit from the ground in a clean and sound condition. It should not be applied until the ground has become slightly frozen in autumn; but under no circumstances allow it all to remain to prove a smothering blanket to the plants when growth starts in spring. This will be the case unless a portion is removed so soon as the ground becomes thawed and settled in spring.

After that nothing remains to be done except wait a few weeks until strawberry time, and then—I deem it unnecessary to explain what to do, even to a novice.  
—*Green's Fruit Grower.*

## POULTRY.

FOR THE CANADIAN FARMER.  
THE CHICKEN.  
BY R. H. SEATH.

Reports from the chicken raisers throughout the country tell of good success this year with the hatching, and anticipate any quantity of magnificent poultry for the coming markets. Large numbers of amateur breeders got rather discouraged last year, and threw up the sponge on poultry-raising. Had they stuck to it and tried it again this year, no doubt success would have crowned their efforts. The nests this year are full of chicks, and, of course, the old grannies are accounting for it because of the lack of thunder storms, but it would be more correct to attribute it to a little extra care and attention. A great many people who want to raise poultry are exceedingly careful about getting good eggs, and, of course, that is commendable, but then they very often say after all that the eggs were rotten, and, of course, no chicks were forthcoming. Is that the fault of the eggs? We think not. The fact of the eggs being rotten tells a story that life existed there sometime, and no doubt that life was destroyed by the improvertreatment which the eggs received. On the whole, however, the season has been a good one, so far as hatching is concerned, but it is not nearly so good with regard to raising. The frequent cold nights, and frosts stunned the chickens, and demand that we must give them extra care. This pays in the end, and our poultry-raising friends should see to it, that the wee chicks are comparatively as carefully put away as the children of the family. Both are young; both are tender; both must have extra care.

## A GOOD CHICKEN COOP.

A good, light and durable chicken coop is made as follows:—Make a frame for an "A" shaped coop, which is not a difficult work to do. Cover both sides with a single ply tar paper. Coat once with tar and then sprinkle with sand. Near the top a hole for ventilation can be covered

with wire netting (a piece of an old sieve answering capably), and slate may protect the entrance. The inside should be whitewashed, and the floor should be made a little smaller than the frame, so that the latter can slip down over it. By this means rats will be kept out. A board can be kept to cover the entrance opening at night.

FOR THE CANADIAN FARMER.

## POULTRY NOTES.

Let chickens be constantly supplied with fresh water.

When you feed rice mix it with other foods. Cook it before feeding.

The poultry house should be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed inside.

Give your chickens milk; it is one of the most valuable foods they can receive.

Don't let chicks out too early in the morning, the wet grass will affect them injuriously.

The earlier you can get your chickens to market, the better will they pay. Remember this and feed them generously.

Don't feed constantly one food. Change the diet and thus consult their tastes occasionally. They will do better on it.

Chickens like sunshine; but a very hot sun on a summer day is injurious to them. They should have proper shade to go to.

Feed your chickens at stated hours. They have organs of digestion to be kept in proper order as well as their owners have.

Keep your chickens out of storms and they will thrive better. This is also a preventative for gapes, diarrhoea and other ailments.

If your hens look miserable don't be sure that they have no lice. Whitewash the poultry house and then dust it inside with insect powder; this will get into the cracks and crevices where the whitewash fails to penetrate. Better dust a little under the wings of each fowl. This plan of treatment will banish the lice.

When your fowls get Roup separate the sick bird from the rest at once and place it in a comfortable coop. The nostrils and beak must be washed clean with castile soap and tepid water, then inject into the nostrils with a small syringe, either from the outside or through the slits in the mouth, a solution of chlorate of potash. A good gargle is one of vinegar and salt slightly warmed, to which may be added a half teaspoonful of alcohol or other liquor, use a small stick with a rag on top and swab the mouth and throat twice a day. Put about four drops of tincture of aconite in a half pint of the drinking water.

Young Men!—Read This.

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Talma capes for summer mantles are made of loops of beads resting on chenille loops; these form the entire cape, to which is added a fringe of beads with chenille in it.