

any cases, bear reducing. If the matted stems are carefully pared off, and the plants cut into good fresh compost, they will soon root, and grow freely; but it will be necessary to prune off all surplus branches of the stems previous to re-potting them, and to shade for a week or ten days.

Pieces of tile, or broken pots, should be laid over the aperture at the bottom of the pots, to prevent the surplus moisture to drain off, or the plants will sustain injury.

The flower beds will need attention this month. Tender Dahlias and other choice plants in dry weather; cut down all decayed flower stalks, as when the seed is gathered, and pull up annuals when they cease to flower.

II.—All the commoner kinds of green house plants will grow well in a soil composed of two parts loam, or what is commonly called "gin soil" from an old common, mixed with one part well rotted manure, and one part of sand, the whole to be thoroughly mixed and incorporated together, and sifted through a fine mesh riddle before using.

STRAWBERRIES.—The following useful hints on strawberry culture we take from Shenck's "Gardeners' Text Book":

Four things appear to be essential to success in the cultivation of the strawberry, viz.: a selection of varieties,—a favorable situation,—careful culture,—and a renewal of the beds in every three or four years. The soil apart from the formation of the bed, is of little value, and is, indeed, often over-estimated: the necessary annual outlay, is of small amount in a garden of common dimensions. A late crop yields a rich reward for the expense incurred. When we see our own vines covered with fruit, tempting to the eye, and pleasant to the taste, we cannot but inquire how it happens, that a farmer, or a gardener, a person in the country having a rod of ground, can be without a plantation of strawberries.

The situation of the bed ought always to be removed from close fences, trees and buildings, so that the plants may not suffer from the shade and flight of air. To have a succession of one bed may lie towards the south, and another have an inclination to the north. Where the soil is not naturally of a suitable character, it should be brought into that condition before the plants are set out. A good loam, light than heavy, deep, rich, and somewhat sandy is undoubtedly to be preferred. It needs to be fertile so as to be easily worked, and yet light as to suffer from drought. It would be at a slight degree of moisture is indispensable to the full perfection of the fruit. Therefore, the soil should be both deep and rich, so that the roots may have plenty of room in which to spread themselves, together with a good food suited to their wants. To prepare the ground for a plantation in the best

manner, we would recommend trenching and manuring it several months previously, taking care that the manure shall be well incorporated. Instead of using common stable dung alone, we should rather apply it in connection with leaves, decayed wood, ashes, plaster, salt, or bone-dust. It sometimes happens that too large a supply of dung, causes a rank growth of vines, without a corresponding return of berries.

After the ground has been properly dug,—all the lumps being pulverized, and the surface raked smooth,—rows are to be struck out at distances of two, or two and a half, feet from each other. In our own garden, we should be willing to allow even more room, being under the impression that there is such a thing as crowding the plants, and thereby injuring their productive powers. The months of April and May, or August and September, are the proper seasons of the year for making new plantations. The first season is undoubtedly the best, because the newly-transplanted vines then require less attention than they would in the heat of summer, and the first fair crop will be a twelvemonth earlier.

The best plants are the young, healthy-looking runners from old stocks. They are to be set out at distances of twelve or eighteen inches in the rows. A hole is made by means of a small dibble, and before the root is inserted, it should be dipped in mud, a semi-fluid mass of dung and water, or even simple water, in order that the freshly-stirred earth may adhere to the fibres.

Every root ought to be set firmly, and when the operation is not followed by a shower, the ground ought to be well watered. If the season be autumn, the new beds require not a little attention, and the liberal application of water will be frequently necessary, until the roots become established. Whenever practicable, transplanting ought to be performed in dull, damp weather.

It will not be long before runners show themselves, and instead of being allowed to roam over the bed at will, they must be trained along the rows so as to form parallel lines of plants, with good, wide paths between them. This system of culture is preferable to every other for many reasons, and principally on account of its being more convenient of access for weeding and gathering the fruit. Light and air are freely admitted to the leaves, while the roots have a large foraging ground beneath the unoccupied paths. The hoe must be often used, as well to keep the surface light and porous, as to eradicate the young weeds before they have taken possession. A full grown weed in a strawberry bed, speaks but little in praise of the owner's industry, or skill in gardening. In severe hot weather, the plants ought to be examined every day, to ascertain whether they be suffering from the want of moisture. This is particularly necessary where the situation is dry and in a warm exposure. But, in most cases, frequent stirring of the soil will attract sufficient moisture from the atmosphere. Mulching, or covering the surface with straw or leaves, is to be recommended, as