

the most productive varieties of Strawberries, Raspberries, Currants, Blackberries and even Grapes, can be grown on land too poor to yield anything like a crop of wheat, potatoes or corn. I don't recommend poor land—because rich soil will do so very much better *with equal cultivation*; but the fact above stated seems to me so remarkable as to be worthy of special mention. The cheapest way is to kill the weeds while they are sprouting, or before they are two inches high—one inch is better—and the best tool for this work that I know of is the common Dutch, or push, or "slide" hoe—from six to ten or twelve inches wide. Of course if your land is stony or gravelly, you may need an ordinary "whack" hoe; heavy land inclined to bake may also need something that will go a little deeper than the slide hoe. But even on clay land I find the latter works well enough, if a narrower size is used. One six inches wide reduces the cutting of strawberry runners and suckers that start up all around raspberry and blackberry bushes to mere child's play. Narrow hoes of this pattern can be bought almost anywhere, but they are generally set at such an angle on the shank as to run persistently into the ground, on a handle of ordinary length. This shape, however, is just right for cutting strawberry runners. If wider ones cannot be had at the home hardware store, a post card to Mr. J. A. Simmers, the well-known seedsmen of Toronto, will doubtless receive a prompt and satisfactory answer, as he writes me that he keeps all sizes of this implement in stock. I don't know his prices, but presume that they range from say 25 cents to 75 cents, without handles, and that for little more—possibly for those figures—they could be sent free by mail.

3rd. — PUT ON PLENTY OF MANURE. It is true plants will fruit without, —but why feed the onion and cabbage patch and starve the hardest working, best producing plants in the garden—just because they will work in some sort of way on next to nothing! Manure prevents injury from drouth; manure doubles to quadruples the yield—it increases the size as well as the number of berries—and, as a general result, it often makes twenty rods of land pay better than a poorly-fed acre of the same kind. In general terms put cow manure on sandy soils, and horse manure on heavy land; but *put it on*, —of whatever kind,—on any soil. Best success with manure is to be attained by using it only when well rotted, if plants are to be set immediately; or, if rather fresh, by letting it have time to rot in the ground before planting; or by letting it partially or thoroughly rot in the heap, while the plants start into growth, and then putting it on the surface about midsummer. Wood ashes and bone dust are most excellent for all kinds of fruit—especially strawberries and grapes. Stable manure is wanted least of all by grape vines—if abundant, and especially if fresh, the vine will make a soft tender growth and the fruit will probably rot. The Delaware perhaps can stand rich ground best of all.

4th.—CUT RUNNERS off strawberry plants; HOE DOWN outside suckers from raspberry and blackberry roots; THEN CUT old unproductive wood of gooseberries and red currants; kill the leaf worms on sight with powdered white hellebore; keep all bushes from growing more than three to five feet high by nipping off the growing tips; lastly, don't let too many sprouts grow on your grape vines, and don't let any branch on the vine grow more than four or five feet without nipping the tip.

CONCLUDING WORDS.

And now reader, I have done my best to tell you about the best varieties and how to succeed with them. It will need no labored explanation from me to assure you that it costs money and time to get up a pamphlet like this; and if you have received any benefit from it, is it not fair that you should help defray the cost! Old customers will need no request to buy again—their orders will begin to come in within a week. But you may never have bought plants in this way, and may perhaps be suspicious from past experience with tree and plant agents. Now I ask you to consider the advantage of dealing direct with a man who, as far as possible, grows the plants sent out, and so feels a direct responsibility for the quality of the stock, and to give me a trial order of at least \$1—judging me thereafter by the character of my plants.

Thus awaiting your esteemed commands, and wishing you a season of cultivation rich with the results of God's own glorious sunshine and refreshing rains, I remain

Your obedient servant,

T. C. ROBINSON.