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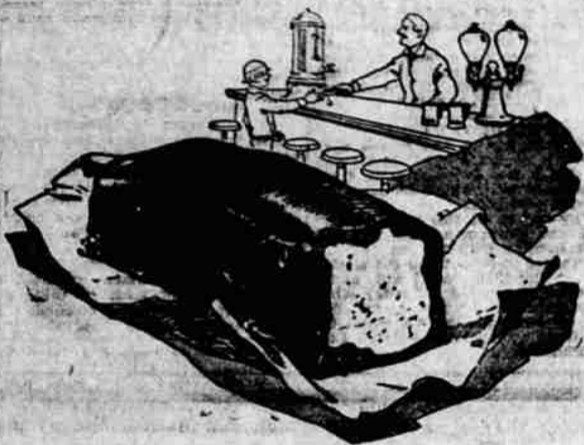
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Some Pointers on Culture of Strawberries

By J. L. Stahl, Horticulturist at Western Washington Experiment Station

The strawberry is the easiest and most commonly grown of all small fruit crops. It is a plant that will stand much abuse, but it responds well to good care. The plantation may be made on many types of soil, but a sandy loam is preferable. An upland slope is usually more desirable than lowland, as there is less danger from frosts during the blooming season. A south slope will give the earliest berries and should be chosen as a site for the field when earliness is an object. Good drainage is essential and deep plowing is necessary to get best results.

On newly cleared upland it is a good plan to grow clover, peas or vetch for one or more seasons and plow under as green manure before setting in berries. The green material when decayed will improve the fertility of the soil.

Strawberry plants may be set almost any time from fall until spring, but the soil may be out in condition. In soils which are apt to "heave" and injure the tender roots, spring planting is more desirable. The plants may be grown in narrow matted rows or in hills. The hill system is more commonly used in this locality. In commercial fields the plants are usually placed from 12 to 16 inches apart in the row and the distance between rows is from 20 to 24 inches. In the home garden they are often grown closer. About 12,000 plants are required to set an acre. The cost of preparing the land, buying the plants and setting that area is approximately \$100. Soil growers set plants 18 inches apart each way, never allow runner plants to form, and cultivate both ways with a corn cultivator.

Plants for setting should be taken from near the parent or mother plant as they are produced first and are stronger than those borne near the tip of the runner. Only young plants of the past season should be set, as two or three year olds will not give as satisfactory results. Plants with desirable fruiting habits may be marked and the young plants for setting taken from them. A good root system is desirable on a young plant, but when setting it is best to remove most of the roots so that the plant will not lose more moisture from evaporation than is necessary.

Before setting the plants the soil should be thoroughly prepared. A short handed hoe is a good planting tool, and a careful, experienced man on his hands and knees is the best setting machine that can be used. Plants should be set so that the crown (junction of root and top) is at the surface of the ground. The rows may be kept straight by using a line or they may be marked off with a marker.

Until the plants are well established the blossoms should be pinched off, and during the fruiting season the runners should be removed. Shallow cultivators should be frequently made during the fruiting season to hold the moisture near the surface of the soil and to keep down the weeds. Usually the first season after planting, but a full crop cannot be expected until the second season. A good field should produce from 5000 to 7000 pounds the second and third seasons. While it is often possible to secure profitable yields after the third season, it is seldom profitable to allow the field to stand after two full crops, and an old field is a wonderful breeding place for strawberry root-weevil and other plant pests.

Harvesting is generally done in June. The fruit may be marketed fresh, sold to a cannery or to the bar-tered berry trade. About six good pickers are required on each acre. Strawberries for shipping should be picked by breaking the stem just above the calyx, leaving a portion of the stem intact. When the consumer can be reached within 24 hours the entire berry may be red in color, but firm.

If the fruit is to be in transit for several days it should be picked when the individual berries are about two-thirds red.

Containers for handling the fruit for market should be clean, dry and solid. In wet or filmy containers the berries become soft and unsalable. Mobby cups or crates are sure to infect the fruit.

As soon as the harvest season is over it is a good practice to remove and burn the foliage of the plants. This may be done by cutting off the tops just above the crown with a mower or with a sharp hoe or scythe. Burning the foliage will rid the plants of leaf diseases and insects. New and healthy foliage will soon develop.

The most popular variety of strawberry for commercial planting in western Washington is the Marshall. The Clark's Seedling, Senator Dunlap, Klondike and other well-known varieties are not prolific enough to suit the grower. The Rotorburg No. 121 is very promising in some localities where it has been tried. (See September, 1921, Bi-Monthly Bulletin for report on varieties.) Everbearing varieties, including the American, Progressive and Superb are grown to some extent for special markets. It is usually necessary to water the everbearing types during summer for best results.

Where they can be secured animal manures are without doubt the best material that can be used to build up the soils and maintain fertility. Four or five tons to the acre, spread before the plants are set in winter and plowed or cultivated under is a good application. One serious objection to manure in the strawberry field is that too often it carries weed and grain seeds which germinate and grow between the plants and increase the hand labor.

A good combination of commercial fertilizers is 200 pounds of nitrate of soda, 500 pounds of superphosphate, and 125 pounds of muriate of potash. This would be about the equivalent of a ready mixed fertilizer, having a 3-8-6 formula. It is best put on in two applications, one just after the first cultivation in spring and the second when the plants start blooming.

There are a few serious plant diseases of strawberries in western Washington and Oregon. Strawberry leaf spot is common, but where the foliage is removed and burned each year after harvesting the disease does very little damage. Strawberry root-weevil is one of the most serious of the insect pests. The mature insect is a stout beetle which lays its eggs near the crown of the plant. The larva, which is about one-fifth of an inch in length, white, and with a yellowish head, soon hatches and feeds on the small roots. It changes to a pupa from which the mature beetle emerges about midsummer. Plowing the field and putting in other crops is probably the best means of control.

The white grub is another pest that often attacks strawberry plants. In a badly infested field the best means of ridding the soil of the pest is to plow it and turn in chickens or pigs. The spittle beetle, which forms a froth over its body, is often found on strawberry plants, and some growers have reported serious damage from this insect. It is sometimes found on plants at this station, but no injury has been noticed. As they are easily located by the froth the beetles may be picked off the plants and destroyed.

Where tree fruits are desired and land is high priced, it is a good plan to grow strawberries in the young orchard. The trees can be headed low enough so that the essential practices of pruning and spraying can be well and readily carried out. The cultivation and fertilization given to the strawberries. The berries will be removed by the time the trees need the land and should return a profit before the trees come in fruit.

COMMUNIST PARTY IS DIFFICULT OF ENTRANCE

(Continued from Page One)

visions of this last category would serve to bar other persons, even those desiring now to enter the party, from participation in the upper circles of the government.

Persons joining the communist party must bind themselves to observe strict discipline and to model their personal lives along communistic principles. They must forswear religion, promise not to drink in public places and to be extremely moderate in consumption of any intoxicants anywhere. They are not to amass wealth, nor to exploit the labor of others.

SHIRAZ, VIOLET, TINSEL POSIES

Flowers in Vast Profession Adorn Millinery Counters for Spring Wear

Flowers have arrived in vast profusion in millinery departments, and the woman visitor will find more flowers than she has imagined, in all the modish new fuchsias, violet and ruby shades; in all the tawny and orange shades from lemon yellow to brown; in flame and scarlet rose and pink; in peacock and iris blues; in wistaria and lavender in a dozen shades. Beautiful silk roses, there are a pair of them made with French art, and with long green trailing stems and leaves in ruby, or rose or pink.

Roosevelt May Run for New York Governorship

Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy in President Harding's cabinet, and son of the illustrious former president, will be a candidate for the governorship of New York, according to rumors current in the Empire state. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the American expeditionary forces during the war.

huge flat-velvet spaces in all these shades also in purple and blue. Magnificent looking tulips and lilies, and charming trails of fuchsias; monster single morning glories and poppies, flat roses with ostrich fuses and orchids and ferns are also worthy of mention; smaller garlands of roses and grapes, gay as any garden, and specially interesting are the silver roses and metal tissue leaves.

Her Good Reason

Congresswoman Robertson of Oklahoma was talking about women in politics.

"Woman lacks political training as yet," she said, "but there's no reason why in time she shouldn't do as well in politics as man does."

"Certainly in replying to hecklers she will do well. I remember stopping one still October evening to listen to a woman preaching some new creed to others from a soap box."

"Say," a tough shouted to her, "say, you look cold, baby! Why don't you tuck your collar up, like me?"

"Well, you see," baby answered sweetly from her soap box—well, you see, I've got a clean neck."

Revised Him

Booth Tarkington is said to be an admirer of the kettler qualities of the colored people. The following story at least bears up the assumption.

"They are a delightful race," Mr. Tarkington is quoted as saying. "I know a minister who once married a young colored couple. 'How much do you owe me, reverend?' the groom asked after the ceremony. 'Oh,' said the minister, 'pay me whatever it is worth to you.' The young darkey looked his dusky bride over from head to foot with an adoring eye, turning to the minister he said, 'You've ruined me for life, reverend, you sho' haa!'"

MUSINGS OF THE OWNER OF A SCRUB COW

I love my scrub cow. She gives me employment every day in the year. She consumes my hay and urea, and grows fat and sleek. She is a thing of beauty, though a burrhead forever. To produce milk and butter for me, she draws from her physical beauty; therefore, it is reasonable to expect it to her. She helps to reduce my income tax. I love my scrub cow. She is a luxury. Dairymen are entitled to luxury, for what? For their people. My neighbor tells me to sell her to the butcher, but my neighbor is a hard-hearted man; so is the butcher. The official tester says that the profits from three of my best producers will keep her for one year, so why should I worry. I love my scrub cow. It requires much time to feed her, but very little time to milk her. My banker says that the small amount of milk she contributes can justly be called "the milk of human kindness," for it is human kindness that allows her to exist. Even Parson Jones was heard to remark that "a greater love hath no more than he who wears his young life away to support a scrub cow, expecting no reward, not even the respect of real dairymen." I love my scrub cow. Who can doubt it? B. D.

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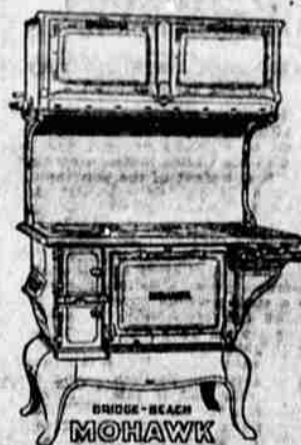
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