

THE CLARION.

Thursday, December 30, 1880

Strawberries—Planting and Culture.

In the former article (see Prairie Farmer of Oct. 30) I gave directions for fitting and laying out the ground. The rows being three and a half or four feet apart, and the plants one to two feet apart, spread out the roots in planting, and let the crown of the plant be very little below the surface. After putting a little fine earth over and among the roots, pour in from a pint to a quart (or more if the soil is dry) of water, and after this has settled fill up with fine earth without pressing it down.

Keep the ground entirely free from weeds throughout the season, being careful that you are doing all the hoeing necessary for three or four years in, and do not neglect it. Run the shovel, plow, or cultivator, as often as once in ten days, between the rows, through the season, gradually narrowing the space between the rows as the plants extend until the ground is equally divided between the matted roots of plants and the open spaces. In hoeing it is an easy matter to gradually run the hoe along the rows and press down the forming plants with the foot or thumb and finger so they will be quite evenly distributed.

In late autumn, or early in December, as soon as the ground is slightly frozen, cover the vines with slough-grass, corn stalks, straw, or which is best of all—manure from the horse stable, if prairie land only has been used. The manure should be very evenly scattered over the vines, nearly covering them from sight. In early spring rake off the coarse parts of the manure between the rows, where it may remain till the fruit is gathered. If it is then too coarse to admit of plowing the spaces with shovel-plow, the coarsest portion may be run over with a fork. After picking, if weeds come up among the vines they should be removed off just at the top of the strawberry leaves, to prevent the ripening of the seeds, and this should be repeated once or twice later in the season, leaving the weeds remain. The spaces should only be run over, a good fifth through the season with the plow and cultivator. Repeat this for three or four (perhaps more) years.

This is all that is necessary to insure good crops of strawberries seven years out of eight; and I can assure the farmer reader who has had no experience, that by following these plain directions he will rival in his success the professional fruit growers, and have an abundant supply of this delicious fruit from the same ground for several years and at a cost not more than double the average cost of an equal number of bushels of other fruit.

It is a word to the ladies:—You know how much more delicious strawberries are fresh from the garden than those state berries you usually find in the market; and if you will clip out or otherwise preserve these directions, and urge the "Lords of the Manor" to do their part when the season arrives, and have an abundance in ten you will next year have such dishes of "strawberries smothered in cream" as will gladden your hearts, and be "fit to set before" these "kings" of the farm.

If the soil was not prepared in autumn it may be done in spring, as soon as dry enough to pulverize nicely. My practice with old plantations has been for many years as follows:—Immediately after the first or second plowings which follow harvesting the crop, I harrow the entire ground thoroughly, so as to pulverize the clods and level the surface. No matter if one-fourth to one-third the vines are rooted out, and the remainder look "sadly demoralized" in consequence, they will soon recover; and be all the better for the severe scuffling. A sprinkling of well-rotted manure or superphosphate—and if a little salt and ashes are mixed with it so much the better—applied once a year, or once in two years, will pay fifty per cent. upon the investment; though if the ground was thoroughly enriched when prepared for the plants, such application is not essential for the production of a good crop, and is not needed where horse-stable litter is used as mulch.

O. B. GALUSIA, Morris, Illinois.

Corn Trial by Grangers.

In a series of seventeen corn crops raised in Saline county, Mo., by farmers competing for a grand prize of \$200 for the largest yield, it appears that twelve crops out of the seventeen gave an average yield of over 100 bushels per acre; and this not for one acre only, but for an area of ten acres in each case. Nothing could more clearly show the progress of good farming than this fact. When one man gets a yield of 100 bushels or over from a single acre it is not very remarkable, because it is not a field of ten acres, but a field of one acre. But when a dozen men, each cultivating a field of ten acres, get a product of over 100 bushels per acre for the whole area it may well attract attention. If twelve fields, aggregating 120 acres, are made to produce 12,000 bushels of grain per annum, together with its 500 tons of clover, what would the yield of the country amount to? It would be a production, and how much longer shall we remain satisfied with thirty bushels per acre as an average yield for the whole country? If the above competition is a fair sample of granger enterprise and success, then we say let the Patrons of Husbandry go ahead, and let the farmers' clubs show the same spirit of progress. Then indeed the new era of husbandry will come in with the new decade, and the croakers and doubters will pass away to join the bats and the owls of the buried epoch.—Experiment Record.

Winter Dairying.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says: "In the autumn there is no forage or food of any kind better for milk cows as a help to falling pastures than pumpkins. I have used them freely for years with the best results, and find the fear of the seeds all nonsense. At the present time I have a fine lot growing among the corn and about three acres planted near the barn, which together will be sufficient to last till Christmas if I can secure a portion of them from frost. After the pumpkins are gone, carrots are better than any other variety of roots, and if fed till grass comes again there need be no loss of quality in the winter. The quantity of the milk will be equal to the best grass season, and will depend upon the cows. Any man having common sense, and managing properly, can obtain double the average given by cows of the kind usually met with, if he will buy of good ones and breed from none but deep milkers, and from bulls which are from a deep milking strain.

The Boston Commercial Bulletin of Saturday last publishes an interesting table, showing the cost of producing a cotton crop, which was prepared by Mr. W. S. Lovell, the figure referring to his Palmyra Plantation in Warren county, Mississippi, and the season being that of 1879-80. In the expenses is included seed of land 30 acres, but no account is taken of seed. No

ertilizers were used. The aggregate yield on 250 acres was 284 bales, weighing 125,800 pounds, and the cost per pound was 617-20 cents, while the cotton sold 94 cents net. Of course the season of 1879-80 was an exceptionally favorable one, and it would hardly be fair to calculate upon a steady increase of acreage from year to year, based upon these figures alone.

Analysis of Hyram Marl. Mr. C. Menclaus, of Brookhaven, Miss., in February, 1879, sent a sample of marl from the great deposits at Hyram, Miss., to New Jersey and had it analyzed by the State Chemist of that State. The following is the report after a careful analysis.

Analysis of Hyram (Miss.) Marl. New BARKWICK, N. J., Feb. 1879. Carbonate of lime..... 71.78 Phosphoric Acid..... 2.50 Silica..... 4.91 Insoluble residue (in muriatic acid)..... 14.78 I did not deem it advisable to determine the remaining constituents (magnesia, chlorine, sulphuric acid, etc.), as their estimation could only increase the expense of analysis, without yielding proportionately valuable results.

TOWNSEND AUSTIN, Chemist of the State Board of Agriculture.

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BUCKINGHAM'S DYE FOR THE WHISKERS. WILL REMOVE OR BLACKEN AT DISCRETION. Being in one preparation it is easily applied, and produces a permanent color that will not wash off.

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Apply twice a day as other ointment, morning and evening; the wounded part needs no cleansing, the Ointment keeps the part perfectly clean and in a healthy condition, and generally no soap is required to wash it off, and it also relieves the skin in a sore and healthy state. It will never become rancid, nor deteriorated by climate.

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27th Popular Monthly Drawing of the COMMONWEALTH DISTRIBUTION CO. AT MACALEVE'S THEATRE, in the City of Louisville, on Friday, December 31, 1880.

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