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## Eastern Strawberries Under Western Conditions.

Any farmer in the state may have a supply of this appetizing and healthful fruit fresh from the vines throughout the season if he is willing to sow a few square rods less of wheat and devote as much time to the cultivation of these few rods in strawberries as would be required if they were planted to potatoes or pumpkins.

The strawberry is found growing wild in about every neglected field and sunny hillside in the United States. Even the fruit of its wild progenitor, deficient in size and high in seed contents, when ripened in the sun is rather delicious. But one need not cultivate any of the wild species. There are 100 or 200 varieties, each one of which is perhaps an improvement on its wild brother. It is unnecessary to say that these varieties are not all equally good. What then shall we do? Order a few of each and try them? No! Horticulturalists of the stations, as well as practical growers, agree closely on a dozen or so which are best suited to general culture. The really good varieties of the strawberry, like the best varieties of other fruits, have a wide range of adaptability.

In order to ascertain the best varieties for the conditions of soil and climate in Idaho 38 varieties, including the best then in cultivation, were bought of an Ohio firm in the spring of 1895. A number of good varieties, among which the Leader and Lady Rusk are conspicuous, have been introduced since then and are not found in the list. But none of these new varieties claim superiority to the best of the old ones. About a dozen of the best new varieties are to be planted at this station next spring.

Fifty plants of each of these 38 varieties were planted in rows 100 feet long, making plants two feet apart in the rows. They were trained into matted rows about 18 inches wide. Owing to drought quite a number of some varieties died. Those varieties that grew and made a good stand thereby proved their hardiness, and from these it is possible, in the face of the yield for the past season and their good record elsewhere, to select 10 or 12 which it is safe to recommend. It is to be regretted that some such standard varieties as the Haverland and Beder Wood made such a poor stand that it is impossible to judge them.

The strawberry patch is on an eastern slope, a heavy clay loam.

### THE SEASON OF 1896.

Owing to the abundant rains of May there was sufficient moisture until the ripening period; during the latter part of this period the lack of rain was apparent, but on the whole the crop was satisfactory.

Pickings were made every two days by the same man.

In this paper the names of the imperfect flowering varieties are in italics.

During the season *Burt Seedling* and *Parker Earle* appeared, to superficial observation, to be the best yielders, perhaps partly because one was the most conspicuous early and the other the most conspicuous late variety. It will be seen, however, that others came close to them in total yield.

Following are the best 10 yielders with the approximate number of quarts per row of 100 feet. The order in which they come will, no doubt, vary another year and some in the second-best lot will perhaps equal some of these:

<i>Burt Seedling</i> .....	33
<i>Parker Earle</i> .....	31
<i>Saunders</i> .....	27
<i>Stayman</i> .....	30
<i>Lovett</i> .....	30
<i>Bisel</i> .....	29
<i>Crescent</i> .....	25
<i>Enhance</i> .....	26
<i>Princess</i> .....	
<i>Princeton Chief</i> .....	

Following are eleven good varieties:

*Greenville*, *Shuckless*, *Swindle*, *Wilson*, *Beder Wood*, *Timbrell*, *Ganey*, *Bubach*, *Sharpless*, *Beverly*, *Marshall*.

None of the 21 varieties named are ranked as inferior at other stations, and *Greenville*, *Sharpless* and *Bubach* are generally considered the very best.

### BERRIES FOR THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

The pistillate or imperfect flowering varieties are a little more productive than the staminate, but in the home garden where yield is not a very important consideration, a few of the best perfect flowering varieties may be selected, as for example *Saunders*, *Sharpless*, *Parker Earle*. A too great variety should be avoided. The *Crescent* is a little earlier than *Saunders* and if this is substituted the *Lovett* or some variety that blooms at the same time should be planted alongside.

The *Timbrell* is an excellent

late variety; but is disqualified for market on account of not coloring up uniformly when ripe. It may be planted with the *Sharpless*.

### CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.

The ideal soil is a sandy clay loam retentive of moisture but with good drainage, but they will succeed on any soil which will grow a good crop of corn or potatoes. If natural drainage is not sufficient the soil must be ditched.

In localities where there is danger of late spring frosts a piece of ground with sufficient elevation to protect against frost should be selected. Pistillate varieties are least subject to injury by frost.

If a sod is to be plowed under it should be done the previous fall and replowed again in the spring before setting the berries. If the ground is infested with weeds it should be cultivated in corn or potatoes the previous year. A liberal amount of manure should be applied to the corn or potatoes so that it becomes incorporated with the soil. If well rotted manure or commercial fertilizers are applied just before setting the plants they should be scattered on top and thoroughly worked in with the cultivator.

There should be at least one row of staminate to three rows of pistillates. Varieties to furnish pollen should be of similar shape, size and color to the one to be fertilized, not only that the berries when marketed may have a uniform appearance, but also because the male varieties influence the form and color of the female. The reason they should be of the same season is manifest.

### THE FIRST YEAR.

Set plants in rows three and a half feet apart and two feet apart in the rows. Cultivate both ways, keeping all runners cut off until July. Then cultivate only between rows, and train runners to make a matted row about two feet wide, not allowing sets to root closer than eight to 12 inches, depending on the rankness of growth peculiar to the variety. When enough plants have been set to fill the row pruning should be resorted to to prevent too close matting, which condition will cause small berries.

They are kept pruned until July so that the original plants may root deeper and thus become less subject to drought.

### MULCHING.

Strawberries should be mulched

with swamp hay or manure, three or four inches deep, but where lifting by frost is not too bad it had better be deferred until New Year's. The mulch should always be applied when the ground is frozen, the deeper the better.

If mulched when not frozen the mulch will cause them to start too early in the spring and there is thus a chance to lose the whole crop by late spring frosts. If mulched when frozen the ground will not thaw out so soon in the spring and plants will not start so early.

### SECOND YEAR.

Rake aside mulch, carefully working some under the plants to keep fruit clean, removing some of necessary, but unless necessary to cultivate on account of weeds, leave as much as you can between the rows; pinch back runners until July. It is not generally considered profitable to keep a bed longer than the second year, but if this is done the vines should be mowed as soon as the crop is harvested and burned to the ground to destroy leaf blight, then cultivate till winter, keeping the plants thinned.

Respectfully submitted,

K. C. EGBERT,

Supt. Ag'l Exp. Station,  
Moscow, Idaho, Jan. 18, '97.

### SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

[By Robt. Milliken, Sec.]

Mr. President and members of the Idaho State Horticultural Society:

At this the close of the second year of our organization, we have assembled to deliberate upon the results of our efforts as members in the field, and as an organized body working in the interests of the cause of fruit cultivation, during the interval which has passed since our last meeting. In making this report I will present for your consideration a brief statement of my efforts to organize our state, and make some general suggestions upon the work before us. What we need most is more men at the wheel, more active workers, and I am pleased to see so many have evidently interested in the efforts this society is making to advance the horticultural interests of our state. It is not only of the orchard we have to do, but all departments of horticultural work demand our attention. Primarily it is the fruit man who keeps up