

to it. They are as well, or better, served by planting in an open space. Put three plants in a triangle, each plant 6 in. or 8 in. apart, and the clumps 5 ft. apart. The purpose of planting three plants in a clump is that by interlacing with each other they will afford mutual support against wind. Fruiting commences about March, and continues throughout the winter unless stopped by frost. If frosts are experienced the tops will be killed. Leave these alone. By no means cut them off, or the entire plant may be killed. Early in summer, or late in spring perhaps, new shoots will spring from the bottom. Now cut away the dead tops. The following autumn should see the best crop of fruit, for it begins to ripen earlier, and so has a longer season. After that the plants die.

*Strawberries.*—There are a number of ways of growing these plants. The market grower looks for the largest quantity of fairly good fruit with a minimum of labour, and frequently adopts what is known as the matted-row system, or some variation of it. For home use fine fruit is the first consideration, the amount of labour required for a small patch not being considerable. Single rows with plants well apart is the plan that is the best for the purpose. At the present time much treading may have made the ground hard. If so, break it up, not by breaking it up deeply, but by surface cultivation. At the same time remove surplus runners—that is, all that are not required for planting. It appears that the almost universal custom with market growers is not to allow the plants to bear the first season after planting. This plan would scarcely satisfy the owner of a private garden, nor is it necessary or the best plan. Probably the grower of acres is unable to give proper attention to securing good runners in sufficient quantity. So he has to devote the first year to growing his plants. My own aim when growing strawberries was to get my best fruit the first season, and plenty of it; and I was not disappointed. The way to proceed is to cause the earliest runners to root, and not allow them to extend further. This has been advised in former numbers of the *Journal*. As soon after this issue as the ground gets moist with rain, and the waning days secure cooler conditions, these runners should be lifted and planted in a nurse bed of good soil. Plant in rows, leaving room for a hoe between, and 6 in. apart in the rows. Ground for a new bed should be got ready early in autumn. Work in a good lot of rich stable manure. Dig the ground well, but do not break the surface soil up too fine. The surface now thrown up should be the surface for planting on. The soil should not again be deeply dug, though it may be advisable to point it over. The object in view is to get the soil well aerated, and allow weed-seeds to grow so that they may be destroyed. This supplies the reason for not changing the surface, as new soil turned up would bring weed-seeds with it. My own practice