

planting of an orchard. If shelter has not been provided, it may even be preferable in some localities to postpone the planting of an orchard for a season, set out the necessary shelter-belts, and by manuring and cultivation induce a maximum of growth, so that when the orchard-trees are planted the shelter-belts will already have become well established.

There are two periods when the planting of new orchards may be carried out—autumn and spring. Many growers prefer autumn to spring planting, but it must be remembered that in any case the condition of the soil at the time of planting is a most important consideration. In some seasons when persistent rainfall sets in early the soil becomes and remains wet and cold, just at the time when the planter has intended to set out his orchard. In such instances planting should be deferred until spring. In the meantime the trees should be heeled in, a well-drained block of land being selected for the purpose.

The preparation of the land for the planting of an orchard should be very thoroughly carried out. Intending planters should never lose sight of the fact that an orchard is intended to be practically permanent, and that mistakes made prior to planting cannot be easily rectified afterwards. Drainage is, of course, most important. In some instances tile draining to take the water away from low-lying spots may be necessary, but as much of the land that is now being planted is undulating, thus affording natural drainage, tile draining will not be required to any great extent. With few exceptions the land should be deeply worked and well subsoiled, for in districts where the rainfall is not necessarily heavy but at times persistent, even hillside land will lie very wet often for some little time if the soil has only been lightly ploughed.

STRAWBERRY-PLANTING.

The foregoing remarks with regard to the preparation of the land for an orchard apply equally well to the preparation of land for strawberry-culture, if the grower desires to secure the best possible return from his beds. The plants should be set out when the soil is moist, but in good friable condition. In some districts the month of April is the most suitable time for planting, in others the month of May. As in many localities the strawberry is very subject to attack by leaf-spot (*Sphaerella fragariæ*), during the winter months it is advisable to spray the young plants soon after they have become well established with the Bordeaux mixture, summer formula.