quantity of potash will have been washed out, according to the extent of the exposure. If the soil is poor in humus sulphate of ammonia, ½ oz. per square yard, may be given, but otherwise should not be used, as it merely promotes green growth, an excess of which makes the plants unduly susceptible to blight-attacks.

Constant treading on the soil—unavoidable in attending to the plants—is likely to make the surface hard. This condition of soil should be prevented. All necessary attendance can be given by walking on alternate rows, and the soil in these rows can be protected by a mulch of dry littery manure.

### PLANTING.

It is desirable that the soil be made somewhat firm before planting. Soil that is very loose is quickly dried by evaporation, so that much watering would be necessary, and excess in watering should be avoided. Loose soil also promotes growth of a flimsy nature. The nature of the soil may be such as to ensure the necessary firmness by merely levelling it over with a rake, but if it is very light it should be well trodden down or, better, have a light roller passed over it.

If the plants have been well prepared the roots should carry practically all the soil of the boxes, including the manure that was placed on the bottom of the latter. The best way to handle the plants is to knock one end off a box, when the whole contents can be slipped off and the plants pulled apart without injuring the roots. To plant, first brush aside dry crumbs of soil on the surface with a trowel, dig a hole amply large enough for the ball of roots and deep enough to admit 2 in. or 3 in. of the stem above the ball. Cover the roots with the soil that was dug out, pressing it firmly over the ball. Unless the soil be very dry no water should be given at this time.

In regard to distance apart in planting, the general tendency appears to be to plant too closely. Close planting does not necessarily produce more fruit; it certainly demands more watering, and incidentally creates a moister atmosphere and favours attacks of blight. It is suggested that 24 in. by 12 in. is close enough for small houses, and that 30 in. by 12 in. is a better distance to adopt for large houses. The closer the plants are to each other the more watering is necessary and the greater the risk from blight-attacks. A little extra space between the plants also permits a better circulation of air and more sunlight on the plants. The securing of these conditions should be sufficient compensation if there were no other benefits, but it would be reasonable to expect a sufficient increase in weight of fruit per plant to bring the aggregate crop at least equal to the weight that would be obtained by closer planting.