

Pumpkins and marrows that are to be kept for winter use should not be left to get too ripe. When the rind is hard enough to make it difficult to pierce with a thumb-nail the gourd is ripe enough to keep, and should be at once taken from the plant. They may be kept under trees where heavy rain and frost cannot reach them, but better in a shed.

Herbs such as thyme, savoury, and marjoram that run to flower every summer should be cut over to encourage new growth. The tops so cut may be dried for winter use by tying in bundles and hanging them in a dry room or shed. It is wise to pass the string by which the bundles are suspended through a sheet of paper, which should be wide enough to form a cover to the bundle: this will catch falling dust and keep the herbs clean. The best time to cut herbs for this purpose is when most of the flowers have opened, but not those on the tops of the shoots. Mint and sage can be kept in the same way. Sage is not of much consequence for drying, there being always green shoots in the garden. Mint, however, dies down in winter, and is very useful for flavoured during that season. Cut the stems down to the ground and hang up in bundles as with other herbs, or dry more thoroughly on the plate-rack of a stove. The leaves may then be rubbed to a powder and kept in bottles.

#### GREEN-MANURING.

Any ground that is cleared of crops and is not immediately required for another should be sown down to provide a green crop for turning under. It is well known that humus is necessary to maintain fertility in soil. Fertilizers are of very little value unless there is a fair amount of humus in the soil. White lupins, cow-peas, partridge-peas, horse-beans, and white mustard are useful green-manuring plants. Mustard is the least valuable of those mentioned, but has the advantage of growing to a useful size in a shorter time than the others, and also succeeds under colder conditions, so that in some circumstances it is the best of the series. Whatever is grown, it should be turned in before the plant becomes dry or woody, so that it may quickly decay and the soil become consolidated before being required for planting or sowing.

#### SMALL FRUITS.

*Strawberries.*—Where autumn planting is to be done the ground should be prepared at once. The preparation of the soil and fertilizing is fully described in the Department's Bulletin No. 79. Strawberries should not be grown more than two or three years on the same ground. They take something from the soil that fertilizers seem unable to make up for without a period of fallowing or a term under other crops. Runners on old beds should be checked. If plants are required for new plantings, not more than two should be kept on each runner; beyond that number they are weak and do not make good fruiting-plants the first season. If new plants are not wanted the runners should be suppressed altogether, as they weaken the parent plant. Those to be saved should be separated from the parent plant by severing the runner as soon as the plants have got a good root-hold.

The Ettersburgh strawberry: This variety has come a good deal under notice during the past two years, and much conflicting evidence has been forthcoming. From personal observations I conclude that it