

is not required immediately for another crop becomes vacant, sow it down in cover-crop to be ploughed in. White mustard matures quickly and has much to recommend it. Oats and horse-beans make good growth during winter months.

The harvesting of crops will still occupy much time. There is a tendency to allow potatoes to remain in the ground after they are mature, but many risks attach to this policy. Far better is it to lift them when the ground is dry, and sort and bag them up daily, maintaining a consistently sound grade. Onions may be ripened in the field in fine weather, otherwise they are better spread under cover until thoroughly dry, when they should be trimmed and sorted. Too often they are kept in a damp, close, dark store; such a place is quite unsuitable. A light, dry, well-ventilated shed is necessary to keep them in good condition.

Tomato-vines, as soon as the crop is gathered, should be dug, and, when dry, gathered and carefully burned. Unless another crop is to follow immediately, broadcast a cover-crop and harrow the seed in. The time for sowing the next tomato crop is not far away, and soil will then be required for seed and plant boxes. A good, clean, sweet, friable mixture will be required if the plants are to be grown satisfactorily. This cannot be compounded at the last moment. Most of our troubles with young plants are owing to an endeavour being made to do so. The compost heap should be already mixed for this purpose; if not, it should be got together without delay.

#### STRAWBERRY-PLANTING.

The strawberry is a hardy plant, preferring a heavy well-drained loam in a district with a good rainfall. On clean, well-prepared land it may be planted now. It is customary in most localities to make a liberal dressing of blood-and-bone manure just before the last ploughing. The greatest care is necessary to obtain good plants of a variety proved suitable to the district. Plant securely on a firm even surface as soon as the plants can be obtained.

#### TOBACCO.

With the colder days now being experienced the tobacco crop will want closer supervision, specially if the season be wet. At such times mould fungus is likely to develop and seriously depreciate the quality of the leaf. In extreme cases it may be necessary to dry the atmosphere of the store by means of charcoal fires or setting up a stove heater for a time. This should be done with due caution, remembering that when dry the leaf is very inflammable.

#### HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

Preparations for the planting season should now be well forward. Most plants of the herbaceous class may be dealt with at once. Such plants in nature do not remain and flourish long in one position, and in gardens four years or thereabouts is the period of their usefulness. They have then to be lifted, the land reconditioned, and the plants broken up and replanted. Better still is it to recast the scheme of planting so that both the plants and the land enjoy a change.