

of the sun. Our own rule is to plant all strong growing sorts four feet apart, and put out winter greens between. By the time the winter greens begin to be a little hampered by the overspreading growth of the potatoes, the latter will be ripening, and will be taken off the ground. The result will be, as a rule, a fine crop of potatoes, and the ground covered with a grand growth of such things as sprouting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Scotch Kale, and such like. S. H.

CHOICE STRAWBERRIES FOR GARDENS.

BY GEORGE SMITH.



As you well know, we grow a large collection of strawberries, comprising all the most important of the new introductions, and thinking a few notes on those which deserve to be the most generally cultivated, to be acceptable, I have sent them, for you to do with them as you wish. As some strawberries do better on certain soils than others, it is desirable it should be stated that the soil of my garden is a rather deep holding loam without being too heavy; strawberries therefore do exceedingly well, and some varieties which make but poor progress in other gardens thrive amazingly, and yield very excellent crops. It may happen that in very heavy or very light soils, some of those which I shall recommend as being really first-class may not do quite so well as could be wished; but it is very certain they are all exceedingly good when grown under favourable circumstances. The varieties which are the best for maintaining a succession over the longest period are—

Aromatic.—A heavy cropper, producing large and handsome fruit, fine flavour, with a most agreeable aroma; valuable for main crops.

Cockscomb.—Fruit large and rather flat, hardly so handsome as some others; flavour rich, productive and useful for main crops.

Crimson Queen.—Fruit large, but sometimes coarse in appearance; the flesh is very solid and highly coloured, but it is hardly so richly flavoured as some others; it is, however, most valuable for late crops, and will be much appreciated by those who prefer a rather acid strawberry.

Dr. Hogg.—Valuable in rather strong soils, but of little use in those of a light character. The fruit is large, handsome, and well coloured, and the flavour rich and sweet; rather late.

Elton Pine.—The fruit is large, handsome, and well coloured; rather late in attaining maturity, and like other late kinds it possesses a rather acid flavour.

Frogmore Late Pine.—This is one of the most valuable of the late varieties; the fruit is large and handsome, and the flesh is rather sweeter than the other late kinds.

James Veitch.—Fruit very large and handsome; flesh white, with dark crimson skin; flavour rich, with most agreeable aroma; fine for main crops.

January.

Lucas.—Large in size and handsome in appearance, flavour very rich and aromatic; heavy cropper, and altogether highly desirable as a main crop variety.

President.—One of the very finest varieties in cultivation for main crops, as it immediately succeeds the early varieties. The fruit is of fair size, good colour, and handsome, and the flavour is most excellent; it is also very productive.

Royalty.—A valuable new variety, producing medium-sized fruit; often most excellent, it possesses the good qualities of being robust and productive, and deserves to be very generally grown.

Sir C. Napier.—Large, handsome, and productive; a desirable variety for those who prefer strawberries possessing a sub-acid flavour.

Sir Joseph Paxton.—Fruit rather above the medium size; handsome and of fine colour, rich in flavour; early and very excellent.

Vicomtesse Héricarte de Thury.—Early and highly productive; rather acid, but a most valuable variety for its earliness and productiveness. With respect to forming new beds, there can be no doubt that when the cultivator has beds from which to obtain a supply of runners, the autumn is the most suitable season of the year for the work. But in certain cases where the runners have to be procured from a distance, the early part of the spring will be found the best season for planting. Strong runners put out early in March will make quite as strong plants by the end of the season as those planted out late in the autumn. In low-lying localities, where the soil remains charged with moisture throughout the winter, a proportion of plants will perish. I would therefore advise those who contemplate making new beds to do so in the course of the spring, instead of waiting until the autumn season. The principal point in strawberry culture is to prepare the soil thoroughly by dressing it liberally with partly decayed manure, and then trench it to a depth of eighteen or twenty-four inches, and in doing so break it up well, and thoroughly incorporate the manure with it. Overcrowding must be avoided, and the plants should be eighteen inches apart in the rows, and the latter two feet from each other.

A BEDDING PLANT FOR THE WINTER GARDEN.



ONE of the most objectionable points as regards the bedding-out system is that when the summer occupants are removed from the beds, the latter are usually allowed to lie fallow, bare, and cheerless throughout the winter, spring, and even the first month of summer, till they can be again filled. This need not be; for, in what is in modern parlance called winter and spring gardening, there are abundant resources and material with which it is not alone quite possible, but easy, to have the flower ground looking almost as gay, and perhaps rather more interesting, during winter and spring than it does when