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PURE BRED STRAWBERRY PLANTS

GROWN IN A NATURAL
STRAWBERRY CLIMATE BY



LADY CORNEILLE

W. W. THOMAS
The Strawberry Plant Man
ANNA, ILL.

SEASON 1926

36th YEAR



IN every garden, farm or city, town or village, there should be strawberries, for there is no food so delicious, so universally relished as fresh fruit, and strawberries are the one fruit that can and should be grown in every garden. Strawberries are unlike tree fruit which to be made productive must be pruned and sprayed carefully each year, these are tasks which the average farmer or gardener feels that he does not have the time for or cannot go to the trouble for only a few trees. Strawberries however, is the one fruit that may be grown without pruning or spraying which yields heavily of delicious fruit liked by every one.

Strawberries are one of the easiest fruits to start. A large bed can be started at a cost no greater than that necessary to start a few trees or bushes of other fruits, the plants come into bearing quickly and a small patch of strawberries, 200 or 500 plants, will occupy but a small space in your garden and will yield sufficient to furnish even a large family with an abundant supply of fresh and canned fruit, with a small amount left over to sell which should pay for the expense. There is always a demand for

strawberries and any surplus can be disposed of at a good price.

Strawberries are adapted to wider extremes in soil and climatic conditions than any other cultivated fruit. The care and culture needed by them is more nearly like that of our common garden crops. Strawberries fit well in the garden because they require little space, are unobtrusive on other crops and when their usefulness is over they may be easily plowed under leaving nothing but the memory of their luscious fruit. Once started, with the exception of Florida and some other semi-tropical sections of the country where they must be planted anew each year, a strawberry patch will last indefinitely and produce for a number of years. It is best however, to renew the patch the third or fourth year in order to keep the plants vigorous and healthy. Strawberries are less liable to serious injury from insects and diseases than most fruits. Rarely must strawberries be sprayed, disease and insects being controlled by planting Thomas Pure Bred Plants, keeping the borders of field free from weeds, and by rotating the crop.

Although strawberries are susceptible to frosts because of their living close to the ground, yet one of their characteristics of growth usually precludes total crop failure, unlike most other fruits whose blooms appear all at one time, strawberries bloom over a considerable period so that even though one crop of blossoms may be killed others follow producing at least a part of a crop.

With all of these advantages in their favor, of wide adaptability to soil, ability to fit in garden rotation, small initial cost, quick returns, large productivity, freedom from disease and insect attacks and sureness of crop, strawberries are one fruit which Prof. W. S. Brock, of the Department of Horticulture, of the University of Illinois, and to whom we are indebted for much of the above article, says should be planted on every farm.

STRAWBERRIES FOR HOME USE

A lover of nature will find nothing so interesting as a strawberry bed, furnishing strawberries for his own table. This, one can have, whether owning a city lot or a large farm. From the time the plants begin to put out new leaves in the spring until the ripe red berries appear, there is a constant fascination in the ever changing development of the berries.

The lover of nature always sees, sometimes almost unconsciously, the beautiful side of nature; in the morning dews, the April showers, the summer rains, the star-light, the moonlight, and the sunlight, the cloudy days, the blue skies, all of which play an important part in perfecting the strawberry, God's choicest gift to man.

Think of going into your garden and watching the different stages of growth and when the berries begin to ripen, having fresh strawberries of your own growing for your table. There are some varieties that are splendid for home use that are not a success as a shipper. We shall be glad to help you select the Strawberries best adapted to your needs and climate.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS GROWN IN A NATURAL STRAWBERRY CLIMATE



ALL of the forces of nature which are so essential for the ideal climatic conditions for Strawberry Plant culture are to be found here at Anna, and this fact emphasizes in an indisputable manner the claim of Thomas Pure Bred Plants, to the production of unexcelled, unequaled fruit.

It is just as natural for the best Strawberry Plants to grow in this location as it is natural for the big trees to grow in California, for polar bears to inhabit the cold north, or for cotton to grow in the sunny South.

Anna, is only a few miles from the Mississippi river, and from the topmost points in Anna, you can see the hills of Missouri and the highest point in Illinois, you can look in no direction but what can be seen hillsides and valleys on which and in which the strawberry flourishes, as only a plant in its natural home can prosper. Thomas Pure Bred Plants have the needed rest and dormant season which nature intended the strawberry plant should have and which is very essential to their bearing qualities, and gives them more vitality and

more energy than those grown in the South. For this reason Thomas Pure Bred Plants are in great demand throughout the South and Southern California. These facts are supported by the many testimonials received from these sections. The black, heavy soil of the West, the extreme cold of the North, the unfavorable conditions of the East are but few of the many things that make Thomas Pure Bred Plants superior to those grown in those sections. Climate, soil and seasons here are ideal and unexcelled for the breeding and producing of strawberry plants, and the influence of the environments on the plants have much to do with their success.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The outlook for the strawberry grower was never better. He is dealing in a staple commodity that is year after year becoming more and more a world necessity. People of today are wanting, getting and paying for luxury in everything in life, and they want nothing more luxurious than that which they eat. The Fruit Farmer is making money, while the Stock and Grain Farmer is barely getting by. The Consumer will nearly turn the world upside down in his protest against paying 10c a loaf for bread, but is "tickled pink" to pay \$2.50 per quart for the first Florida Strawberries. So Mr. Stock and Grain Farmer a "Hint to the wise is sufficient." Put out some Strawberries to tide you over this readjustment of farm values, for now is a good time for the farmer not to quit. The world must be fed, and because the producer is becoming fewer in numbers and the non-producer is becoming more and more each day, the future of the feeder of men is full of promise. Here is an illustration of the rapid growth in the percentage of consumers compared to the producers. In 1790 there were 96 men engaged in raising food stuff on th farm to every four in the cities who needed food stuff but did not raise it. In 1860—seventy years later—the number of men engaged in wrestling foodstuffs from the soil had decreased to 84 and the number who did not raise the food stuff increased to 16. In 1870 there were only 47 producers where the non-producers had increased to 53. In 1880 the producers had decreased to 44 while the others had increased to 56. In 1900 there was only a fraction more than 35 people on farms to produce food for themselves and for every 65 in the cities. The census of 1910 does not show more than 30 persons engaged in agricultural pursuits for every 70 who live in the cities, and at the present time the ratio is less than 10 persons producing food to more than 90 consumers, and it is safe to say 75 per cent of the 90 consumers are demanding a luxury in their food and strawberries head the list of that demand. Quality strawberries will always sell and at big prices. Now is the time to grow strawberries.

STRAWBERRIES FOR PROFIT

There are thousands of strawberry growers who recognize that industry as their vocation. It is to be proclaimed and can be proven that the professional berry grower is making more money today than any farmer who depends on the ordinary farm crop

for his entire earnings. Acreage considered, the berry grower has the best of the argument from start to finish. The investment which produces a \$5,000 strawberry crop is but a small per cent of the investment needed to produce \$5,000 worth of wheat, cotton, truck or citrus fruit.

Thomas Pure Bred Plants will help you in the production of better strawberries, and should be used, instead of plants from beds of old plants, that have spent their vitality and vigor in producing fruit. It should not be a question of your following ancestors' footsteps. Imitating former generations does not bring about new and improved conditions. This is not a censure for our ancestors. Had they had the opportunities that the world offers today, their history would have been different. Think of the tremendous difference, between our improved varieties of strawberries and the Hooveys Seedling (which was the first American variety), originated in 1834 or 1835. Lack of transportation facilities fifty years ago prevented growing strawberries in remote states and selling them in the great city markets.

Thomas Pure Bred Plants will make your profits bigger, and show you clearly the way to a more satisfactory result for the physical force spent by you in the production of your crop.

Thomas Pure Bred Plant ideas are not theoretical, they are founded on established facts. Are you interesting in making that small farm or that large farm of yours a profit producer instead of just an expense paying, make-a-living proposition? You should be. Your welfare and that of your family demand that your every effort should be well spent. An accumulated crop profit of a series of years is a pleasant thing to anticipate.

But without the individual profit there can be no accumulation.

There can be no individual profit without effort—intelligent effort.

Have you thoroughly investigated the profits of strawberry growing? Do you know what you can realize per acre from Thomas Pure Bred Plants, grown either for home market or for shipping to distant markets? If you will investigate this thoroughly you will become convinced that it is a splendid proposition. Others are making money growing strawberries from Thomas Pure Bred Plants, so can you. The plans laid down in this book, if properly followed, will give you the profit to which you are entitled.

STRAWBERRIES PROFITABLE TO ENTIRE COMMUNITY


There are many crops that the successful growing and marketing of in any community will put money in circulation among others than the growers, but there is no crop that puts as much money in circulation among all classes and creates as much stimulus in a town or community as strawberry growing. There is always a noticeable air of hustle, progressiveness and prosperity about a strawberry growing center. It is good for everyone and all feel the effects of the marketing of the crop.

It is not only the grower who has his net returns to spend or deposit in the Bank, there are those employed in making the crates and boxes, the employes of the ice factory and the great army of pickers and packers and others employed in caring for the crop, and all these put their money in circulation so that it stimulates any kind of business in a town. The merchants of all kinds, the banker and even the peanut peddler, feel the effects of it. The amount paid for picking alone is an enormous thing. In many of the large strawberry growing centers it is often that \$5,000.00 or more per day is paid just for picking the berries, and the people who pick the berries spend it among the business men of their own town for the necessities and luxuries of life.

It does not take skilled workmen to pick the strawberries, but every one can help who is old enough to realize the importance of doing their work right, thus men, women and children share alike in the opportunity of earning their part in the harvest.

The stimulus created by the strawberry season is felt throughout the entire year until the next crop is ready for market. If all the classes were enumerated, who directly or indirectly are benefited by the strawberry crop it would include every business in the town, therefore it is an industry that all business men should encourage.

If yours is already a strawberry growing center then encourage the growing of better berries, berries that will bring the greatest returns for labor, time and money expended. Encourage a more thorough systematic method of culture and marketing. If not already a strawberry growing center, then encourage the launching of the



industry. No matter whether you are a business man or a farmer, it will help you and the community. Talk it up to every one, get the leaders together and organize a strawberry growers' association. Get the growers to agree to plant as many acres each as their ability to care for and the size of their farms will permit.

Insist on their using the best plants to insure the greatest success. Get in touch with fertilizing companies; arrange for supply of packages for the berries; look up the markets and buyers and let it be known to them you propose to produce and market the best berries. Let every business man and every farmer get together and work together to push the industry and make it a grand success. United and concerted energy will accomplish this, then your business will grow and your farms will increase in value and yourselves and town will be prosperous.

SOIL AND LOCATION

It has been demonstrated that Strawberries will grow in most any kind of soil and yield good returns, but there are some soils better than others. Good rich, loamy soil well drained is the best. Avoid a gravelly, porous, sandy soil that will not hold moisture, plants will dry and burn out during the hot summer. Water soaked, low lands will cause the plants to drown.

If location can be chosen plant early and mid-season varieties, on high land to avoid the late frost. Late varieties do best in low lands of small bottoms or valleys. Late varieties usually do not bloom until danger of frost is past, the moisture in lowlands during the dry season will mature a good crop of berries, where high land will become dry and cut the crop short for want of moisture.

PREPARING LAND AND FERTILIZER

The land should be thoroughly plowed or spaded, break it deep, harrow well, then dragged or rolled. In some places it is advisable to plant on a ridge, but in most localities level culture is the custom. If planted on a ridge, the ridge should be well firmed with an inverted V shaped drag made for that purpose. If the land is low and inclined to be wet, it should be well drained, either with tile or open ditches. It is often advisable to re-work land to be sure to have it in splendid condition.

Strawberries as a rule, have been planted and cultivated in any old slip-shod way, all that many growers do is to set the plants, give them a semblance of cultivation and hoeing once or twice and let it go at that, at the same time any poor hillside or impoverished field is used, it is not fit for anything else but is good enough for strawberries; then these same growers will tell you that strawberries do not pay. It is a joy to know that this class of growers is fast disappearing, the energetic, thinking grower is forcing them out. The up-to-date grower who systematically plants and cultivates berries, feeds his plants, and intelligently harvests and markets his crop, will make more money out of strawberries than he can on any other fruit.

The cow-pea is perhaps the best crop to precede the strawberry. If the land can be well manured, then turned under and sowed to peas, it will give the best results, turning the manure under destroys most of the weed and grass seeds, also when the land is rebroken for strawberries the manure is thrown back near the surface for the strawberry plant to feed upon. Do not turn the manure under for strawberries unless you intend to rebreak, it leaves the manure so deep in the ground that it is beyond the reach of the strawberry plant. When ground is broken only once apply manure after the ground is plowed and then work in with harrow. The cowpea and manure makes the best fertilizer for strawberries, the cow pea not only adds much to the soil as a fertilizer but puts the much needed humus in the soil, and otherwise greatly improves it.

Commercial fertilizers are used extensively. Among the best are bone meal, and cotton seed meal, or similar fertilizer. Use little if any nitrates or lime. There are several especially prepared strawberry fertilizers on the market that are good. Ask your dealer to get some for you. These can be applied in several ways, can be drilled in the soil where row is to be, broadcast before planting, or drilled in alongside the plant, or in any other practical way. Four hundred or five hundred pounds to the acre (in Florida they use eight hundred to twelve hundred pounds to the acre) should be about the proper quantity. Plant food is a necessity if you would be a successful grower. Caution: Too much commercial fertilizer will have a tendency to increase the plant growth to the detriment of the fruit producing faculty.



PLANTING

To insure a good stand of plants, care must be exercised in planting. A Thomas Pure Bred Plant, carefully and well set will grow and produce lots of big luscious strawberries. Many ways are recommended and many ways are successful. First getting your rows straight is essential for good cultivation. The marker as pictured has proved most practical for marking off the land for large plantings. It scratches a mark in the ground, which is not easily destroyed by rains and will remain visible for a long time. This marker can be made by any blacksmith and is inexpensive. Small patches can be set with a line or laid off with a wheel barrow.

As to distance apart the plants should be set, and the number of plants per acre, much depends on the various localities and the method under which the plants are grown.

For a matted row (which is most popular), the rows should be three and one-half or four feet apart and plants on an average of eighteen inches apart in a row. The distance apart in the row should be governed by the ability of the plants to make runners, varieties and localities considered. Thrifty growing varieties and localities where strawberries make a luxuriant growth can be planted further apart, some shy plant makers will want to be planted closer. When it is desired to grow the plants without allowing runners to root, as is done in the hill culture, the plants may be planted ten or twelve inches apart. All runners should be cut off as fast as they start, and the plants will stool out and develop into enormous plants producing great quantities of berries.

Large growers should mark their land both ways, so their plants will be two to three feet apart in the row, and they will be able to cultivate both ways until the runners start.

After you have your ground laid off in straight rows, the next thing is to prune the roots of your plants. About one-third of the roots should be cut off. A sharp knife should be used so as not to bruise the roots and so that the cut will be smooth. This is important as the cut will then callous quickly and start out new root growth. A properly root pruned plant will start to grow much quicker than the unpruned plant. It also enables the root to be straight down out of the way of the cultivator's teeth and not doubled up as is the case many times when roots are not pruned. If you have not been pruning your strawberry plants, do so hereafter. You will find that there is a wonderful advantage in doing so.

The next step is the actual planting. Having planted successfully for years with a spade and having tried various other ways without as good results, we now have all our planting done with spades. In planting a man and boy work together; they face the way the row runs. The man uses the spade with his right hand and carries the basket of plants on his left arm. (Note the damp sack or cloth protecting the plants; do not expose plants to the sun or wind.) The spade is placed at a right angle with the row, the left edge of the spade being even with the mark. With the right foot force the spade deep in the soil at a slight angle, push the handle forward, which leaves an opening behind the spade in which to insert the plant. The boy does this by taking the plant between his thumb and second finger of right hand, the first finger extending straight down beside the roots. With a quick swing place the plant in the opening behind the spade down to the bud and hold it in this position until the spade is removed and the man with his left foot presses the soil firmly to the plant. With a little practice one can become very rapid and proficient. In planting the dirt should always be well pressed to the plant. This is very necessary and that the beginning of the bulge of the bud is level with the surface of the soil. When planting in the spring plant early, and do not plant in too loose soil. Strawberries do best when set in soil well rolled and packed.





CULTIVATION

Cultivation should commence early in the spring and continue all summer. This applies to plants set in the fall, winter or spring. A small tooth cultivator is the best and should be used about every ten days or oftener. If rains should be heavy and pack the soil, then cultivate as soon after the rain as ground is dry enough. The grass and weeds should be removed from row and from around the plants and soil loosened between the plants. Give thorough cultivation, it will pay. When field is planted both ways, it will be found that there will be a great saving in the hoeing, until runners start to grow, by cultivating both ways. The soil should be kept thoroughly loose and well pulverized all summer. When the runners commence to grow, hoeing will have to be done with more care. When the new plant begins to form on the runners, it should be pressed down and a little loose soil thrown on the runner just behind the small plant. This will hold it to the ground and will aid the new plant greatly in rooting. We advise letting the first runners grow and after enough plants have rooted to make a matted row eighteen or twenty inches wide, then keep all runners cut off. This can be done with the hoe in a small patch, and in large plantings by placing a rolling coulter on the cultivator in such a way that all runners out in the middles of the rows will be cut without injury to those in the matted row. In the South when the strawberries are planted in the fall, they should be cultivated from planting time until about blooming time, when they are usually mulched and cultivation ceases.

The blossoms of the newly planted strawberry plants should be removed as soon as they put in appearance. This does not apply to the extreme South, where the crop of berries is often produced a few weeks after planting, but it applies to sections where strawberries are cultivated one year before fruit is harvested. The blossoms can be removed by cutting or pinching off. It is quite often that the blossoms can be removed while giving the berries their first cultivation, but sometimes, it is necessary to remove the blossoms before the first cultivation. For if you allow the fruit to form on the newly set plant it will take much vitality from the plant.

Remember, that Thomas' Pure Bred Strawberry Plants have their fruiting qualities proven in the Testing Beds, and because our plants that we will send you have not had their vitality and vigor sapped by being allowed to fruit, they will bloom profusely, when set early in the spring.



Cultivating Strawberry Plants on the Farm



CARE OF OLD STRAWBERRY FIELDS

There are various methods practiced in the care of fields after the first and second crop has been harvested throughout much of the strawberry-growing country, especially where the matted row system is practiced as two or three crops of berries are harvested from the field before plowing under. Cultivation after the crop is harvested is very beneficial for the next crop. The general practice is to bar off the rows with one-horse plow, throwing the dirt to the middle, and after a few days thoroughly work out the middles with double shovel and large tooth cultivator until the ground is put in good condition, and the soil worked back to the row. The weeds that grow on the row are kept cut out. Cultivation should be kept up during the remainder of the summer; very seldom hoeing is done.

Another way of treating the fields, which is also good, is to throw the dirt over the row from both sides with one-horse plow, work out middles with double shovel and then cross harrow the fields until most of the dirt has been dug from the top of the row. This will leave loose soil well mixed among the plants. Cultivation through the middle should continue throughout the summer.

When plants are grown in hills they can be cultivated and hoed in same way as in first year.

An application of wood ashes or commercial fertilizer applied on the row is beneficial.

MULCHING

Mulching is practiced in the North to protect the strawberries from severe freezing, and in the South to protect the ripening fruit from sand and dirt. Lying between these two sections, there is a vast territory where strawberries are not always mulched, but if mulching is done it should be light and not as heavy as farther North. Straw or any other coarse litter is good for mulching and should be applied in the North about the time the ground begins to freeze; in the South just before plants begin to bloom. In the South pine needles are used extensively for mulching and when applying them just before blooming time care should be exercised so that mulching will not be too thick directly over the plant, but should be applied thin enough so that the plant will grow through.

HEELING IN PLANTS

If you will order your strawberry plants shipped early during cold or cool weather they will then reach you in a dormant and hardy state, while in the late warm spring days plants will have started new growth and are succulent, will heat easily and requires greater care in setting them out. By having your plants shipped during the late winter or early spring, you can heel them out and keep them in good condition for a long time, and thus your plants will be ready for you whenever you want them.

If the ground is frozen when plants are received, heel in the first day when it is not freezing, then if threatened with cold weather the plants should be covered with straw until cold weather is over. If one is expecting a shipment of plants in cold weather it is well to have the place you expect to heel the plants in well covered with straw some time when the ground is not frozen, then when the plants are received you can remove the straw and heel in although the ground elsewhere may be frozen. Heeling in, however, should always be done at a time when it is not freezing. In heeling in a small trench should be opened with a hoe, throwing the dirt back to one side to form a bank, the bunches of plants should be opened and the plants spread out thinly against the bank and pull the dirt well up to the crown of the plants and pressed to the roots firmly. Then another trench, more plants, more dirt, and so on until all the plants are heeled in.

Cuba, November 23, 1925—I received the ten thousand strawberry plants, Aroma and Missionary, and I am pleased to inform you that they arrived very well. They are excellent and are alive and growing. Every year I used to buy from others and was satisfied when I lost fifteen per cent. With yours I lost nothing and am very content. I shall be a good recommender of your plants. Possibly before three days I shall ask for more plants. I shall not again buy of other people.

Fernando Lopez Muro.

Bermuda, October 12, 1925.—The writer considers your plants the best that he has ever imported.

B. C. C. Outerbridge.



Heeling Out Plants, Plants in Trench and Ready to Be Covered

THE SEX OF STRAWBERRIES

The female plants produce Pistillate or imperfect blooms, the male plants produce Staminate or perfect blooms. The Staminate varieties produce fruit when planted by themselves, but the Pistillate varieties will not mature perfect fruit without being fertilized by a Staminate variety. The fertilizing is usually done by planting one row of a Staminate variety with every two rows of a Pistillate, or the plants may be mixed indiscriminately in the row, one Staminate to two of the Pistillate. Not so many Pistillate varieties are grown now as in the past. The Warfield is a Pistillate, while the Senator Dunlap is a Staminate. These varieties are catalogued thus: Warfield (P), Senator Dunlap (s), and all varieties are so designated. The leading varieties grown are Staminate, such as Klondyke, Lady Thompson, Excelsior, Early Ozark, Senator Dunlap, Gandy and Aroma. There are some Staminate varieties, however, that are improved by another Staminate variety being planted with them. The most noticeable of these are the Gandy and Aroma.



Staminate

Pistillate

NUMBER OF PLANTS REQUIRED PER ACRE

24x12 inches apart.....	21,780 plants	42x24 inches apart.....	6,225 plants
24x24 inches apart.....	10,890 plants	48x12 inches apart.....	10,890 plants
36x12 inches apart.....	14,520 plants	48x18 inches apart.....	7,260 plants
36x24 inches apart.....	7,260 plants	48x24 inches apart.....	5,145 plants
36x30 inches apart.....	5,800 plants	48x30 inches apart.....	4,400 plants
36x36 inches apart.....	4,840 plants	48x36 inches apart.....	3,630 plants



DESCRIPTION OF VARIETIES

SENATOR DUNLAP (S) Medium—This variety has done so well that it will be years before many northern growers will plant any other variety. It is a heavy yielder, splendid quality, and sells for the highest price. What more could be wanted? It is a country-wide producer and is so recommended. The plants have enough health to get through on half a chance, and where they have an average show can be absolutely depended upon. The berry itself resembles the Warfield in shape, in color, and in period of ripening. It belongs to the drought resisting class, yet is not liable to be injured by continued rainy weather during the picking season. It is above the average in the development of a crown and has an unusually long blooming season. A good pollenizer. Any observing grower will detect more favorable points about this berry than is given in this description.

It is not only a splendid market berry, but one of the best for home use, having no superior as a canning berry. Every Northern grower should put Senator Dunlap first on their list and then add such other varieties as may be wanted, but make the main part of your planting of this variety either for market or home use, and if you are going to plant only one variety plant this one.

KLONDYKE (S) Medium—The Klondyke is still the most popular of all Southern varieties because of its ability to produce dollars for the Southern grower. Its especially fine quality, appearance and good shipping qualities gives it this ability. All consider the Klondyke one of the best Southern varieties and advise planting it in preference to all others where one variety only is to be used excepting perhaps some localities. It is a very showy berry, therefore creates a good impression on first appearance. In quality it is excelled by none. Its unusual firmness makes it a most excellent shipper, uniform in size, from one end of the season to the other.

Foliage heavy, dark green, rustless and rank, long stems, but the heavy foliage protects the blossoms from possible frost, and other varieties have been known to frost kill right alongside. This is one feature of critical importance to the grower, whether he is a large grower or just a home grower; certainly a home grower should not take chances on planting a variety that frost kills easily. We secured our original supply of this variety about 24 years ago and are still producing plants from the same strain, which has proven one of the very best. We have given special attention to the breeding up of this variety during all that time and we are sure that Thomas Pure-Bred Plants of this variety will give results entirely satisfactory to all Southern growers.

AROMA (S) Late—Among the best of the late ripening varieties. In comparison with the Gandy, it will be found that it commences to ripen a little earlier and will continue to the end of Gandy's season and is similar to it in size and productiveness. It is planted extensively both North and South. Quality the best of any, comes nearer being the true strawberry flavor than all others. It is the best for eating from the vines, with cream, shortcake, preserved or canned. Its shipping qualities are the best. There is

no other variety that will stand shipping better or longer distances. Berry firm, solid and not easily bruised. Color is the best of any variety, dark red all the way through. Foliage clean, healthy and very attractive; size large to very large, and uniform.

This is the one variety that comes nearer being suited to all localities than any other variety grown, as it flourishes and does well in the North and in the South. It is especially adapted to that section of the country where the North and South

meet. For several hundred miles both north and south of Mason and Dixon's line it flourishes to such an extent that many growers have discarded all other varieties and grow the Aroma exclusively. By growing this variety you will have berries that always sell for the best market price.

EXCELSIOR (S) Early—This berry has not become famous for the home garden, but for the producer who grows for market purposes. He will get in the Excelsior an extra early berry, one that can be grown profitably, capable of standing drought and heat. A good berry for any professional grower, especially Southern growers. It is a seedling and a Wilson-Hoffman product. No more of any other extra early variety are grown for the market than Excelsior, and it is recommended for its productiveness.

CHESAPEAKE (S) Late — The original home of the Chesapeake is to an extent indicated by its name. It was introduced in Maryland and carries the name of the bay that furnished the state its waterway. It is a seedling and has many good points of many good varieties. The plants are large, vigorous, rustless and without an inferior point. Foliage thick and unright, with an almost round leaf. It is a large stemmed variety and much of the fruit is held from the ground by them. They are similar in size to the Gandy, but more productive, firmer and of better quality. Green tips are unknown in the Chesapeake. It is a good producer on any land that will grow strawberries. One of the best late strawberries.

MISSIONARY (S) Early—A new variety from the South, and grown almost exclusively by the growers of Florida. One of the best up-to-date strawberries of the hour. It is clean, healthy plant, succeeds well anywhere. It is a perfect blooming variety and a heavy bearer, good shipper, fine flavor, excellent quality and ripens much earlier than the Klondyke. The plant is very hardy and an excellent grower. We especially advise the Southern grower from Florida to California to grow the Missionary.

LADY CORNEILLE (S) Medium — This wonderful strawberry has more good qualities than ever before combined in any one berry. The Lady Corneille is the healthiest, thriest, best growing plant with clean foliage, absolutely free of rust or leaf spot; plants large,

strong and robust, with large roots that grow deep in the ground. The plant is simply a beauty, glossy, rich green leaves, stands drought better than any other strawberry and thrives in both clay and loamy soil, makes runners freely and grows to perfection under both matted row, or hill culture. The Lady Corneille ripens same time as the Klondyke and Senator Dunlap, but continues in bearing much longer. The berries are supported on heavy, stocky fruit stems and every one matures into a perfect berry. The blooms are rich in pollen, calyx large and heavy and remains green, giving a beautiful appearance to the fruit. Berries large, rich glossy red, slightly long, some wedge shaped, with bright golden seeds which adds to their beauty. Quality the best of all berries, having the true Strawberry flavor, rich, sweet and delicious.

GANDY (S) Late—The Gandy comes as near standing alone as a superior berry for the late market as any grown. It has more than ordinary firmness, and as a shipper it certainly has no superior. Plants are strong, healthy and good growers. Its color is bright red, smooth surface, dark red seeds, and of delicious flavor. If a soil were to be recommended, a heavy clay soil or bottom land would be suggested. Will keep in good condition on the vine after ripening longer than most any other variety. It does best when some other late variety is planted with it. The Aroma is recommended for this.

BRANDYWINE (S) Late—A berry that has truly earned the popularity it enjoys. Large, deep red fruit, and a top-notch fancy market product, thrives on almost any soil. Ripens with the medium late class. Flesh firm and red all the way through. Productiveness above the average, ships well and is one that can be depended upon to give general satisfaction to growers. Is extra prolific in Northern and Middle States, and in Southern California and Florida. Cream color in the center; has a delicious flavor; foliage dark green, roots deep, enabling it to endure more dry weather than most varieties.

SAMPLE (P) Late—This is an old standard late variety that has given general satisfaction North of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi. Of large size, bright red, slightly pointed. Very productive.

Strawberry plants arrived and are doing nicely; lost not more than 25 plants. Asparagus also seems to be doing fine.—G. B. Howes, Florida, Dec. 11, 1925.

HAVERLAND (P) Medium — This is a midseason producer and has more competition as such than either the earlier or the late variety, consequently when it is said that the Haverland is a profit producing variety it means a great deal in its favor. The plants are healthy vigorous and large, producing ample runners and is a producer of recognized ability. It is an extremely hardy variety and so productive that the stems are unable to hold the fruit from the ground. This makes mulching desirable, and that would assist to rapid handling at picking time. It is one of the good old varieties that have always stood good.

MICHEL'S EARLY (S) Early — There are few varieties equally well known, but a description is not out of place, that the descriptions of the newer berries may not cause this one to be overlooked by the grower who wants a medium sized, evenly colored berry with a rich, mild flavor, solid meated, and a splendid shipper. Foliage tall, the leaves are long and of light green color.

WARFIELD (P) Medium—This is a pistillate variety and has a popularity that comes to but few varieties. It has a large, beautiful, cone-shaped berry, with a fadeless dark red exterior, and the lark red color is retained to the center of this exceptionally juicy fruit, which is just that enough to be deliciously palatable. It is a popular berry for canning, a good looker in market, a superior shipper and its general appearance on the vines is retained after it is in the market.

LADY THOMPSON (S) Medium — This is another great Southern berry. The fruit is of medium large size, a good shipper and has a good market value. It is also grown extensively in Southern California. Hundreds of growers in the South look to the Lady Thompson as their money crop. Another added advantage that it has is that it is one of the best drought resisters.

TENNESSEE PROLIFIC (S) Medium— If you want a vigorous and a thrifty grower with full assurance of crop besides, the Tennessee Prolific ought to be planted, whether for market or for family use. The berries are of medium large size and in color a bright crimson and in shape longer than the average. Fine grained flesh, well juiced, popular as a canner and a shipper of recognized quality. It is one of the large calyx species and produces abundantly of runners and of plants.

GLEN MARY (P) Medium—Bright Yellow seeds are prominent in the big dark red crimson meaty berries, which are of high flavor, rich and juicy. This berry is not recommended to extreme Southern growers. However, it is a good, firm shipper, popular with good marketing qualities, and is a favorite among all growers. It is capable of enduring more than an ordinary term of dry weather through the fact that it is a deep-rooted variety, and this makes responsible the dark green color of its foliage. The leaves are almost round, with a particularly glossy surface. Glen Mary should be planted near some staminate variety.

EARLY OZARK (S) Early—A berry of the best quality not so acid as most early varieties. A good shipper and prolific bearer. Foliage fine and very healthy plant. A good berry for the Southern and Western growers.

DR. BURRILL (S) Mid-season—The Dr. Burrill stands among the very best in mid-season strawberries. It is one of the strongest growers and exceedingly productive of medium to large well shaped, rich, glossy red through and through. This is a cross between the Dunlap and Crescent. Is one of the cleanest plants grown, no rust at any time, does well where many of the most promising varieties fail.

GIBSON (S) Mid-season—The fruit is large, well formed, juicy and delicious, from the outer side to the heart the fruit is a clear red, and holds its size to the last berry on the plant. Plants are very vigorous growers, root system very large, and hardy. Does best in North around the Great Lakes. Do not advise planting in the South.

BIG JOE (S) Late — Very productive. Very fine large pretty berries. Big Joe in the matted row makes a very pretty sight, foliage dark green and stands up well. If you want a big plant with big roots and big berries, Big Joe is the one you want.

LUPTON (S) Late—Is a strong hardy grower, fruit large, blood red to the center and very firm. Very productive, brings good prices on the market, well liked by all who have tried. Very popular in the East.

PREMIER (S) Early—Very popular on East Coast, with us the Premier is not as early as claimed for it in the East. Premier is a clean hardy growing plant free from rust. Does not make many plants, but very heavy bearer of fine fruit.



Progressive—November 12th.

FALL BEARING VARIETIES

Everbearing or Fall bearing Strawberries, do best in those sections of the country where the strawberry plant is dormant during the months of November, December, January and early February. The Everbearing Strawberry is truly a luxury for the home and profitable for the market. We have tried many, if not all, of the Everbearing varieties and find the Progressive to be the ideal Everbearing Strawberry—others are as good and very hard to tell any difference in them. To obtain the best results with the Everbearing Strawberry you must have good rich soil, soil with lots of decayed vegetable matter is best. Keep all blooms pinched off for the first three months after setting, cultivate thoroughly and we advise that you use the hill system. Cut off all the runners and let the plant stool into one big crown. Use some bone-meal and a very little nitrate of soda. Everbearing Strawberries must be thoroughly watered throughout their growing season. The Progressives have the shape, size and color of the Dunlap. The flavor of a Progressive on a cool crisp Autumn day is the best ever. And they have an aroma that is very fragrant.

Plant some Progressives in your garden.



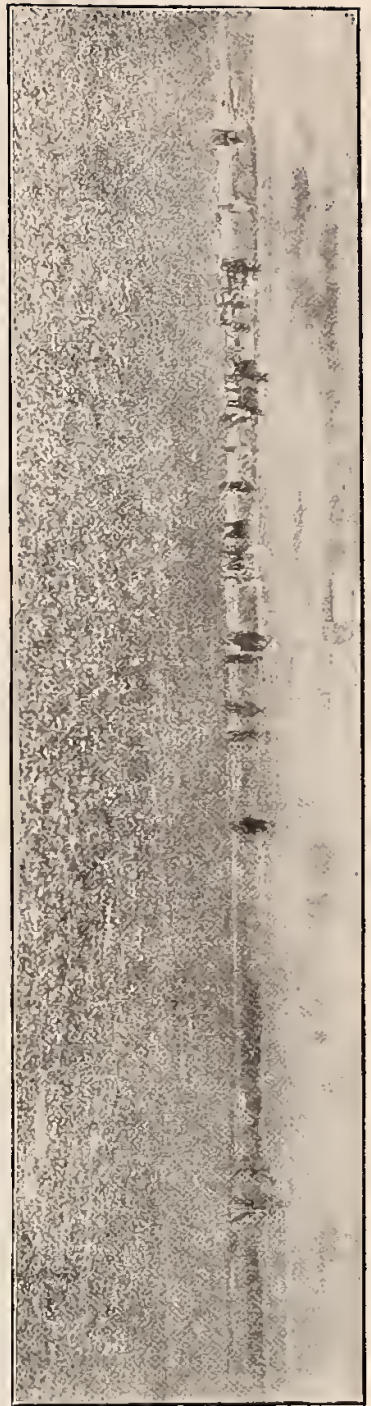
The packing house crew and some of the women who cleaned and tied your plants. We have accommodations for 60 women. The average woman ties more than 8,000 a day.



Above, shipping nearly three-quarters of a million Strawberry Plants by express. Below, the day's mail shipment of which nearly 50,000 go to Cuba.



Digging your Strawberry Plant order from a solid mass of plants the rows and middles all alike filled with plants, also note there are no weeds. Our careful cultivation keeps them out. The cold raw winds of early spring makes the digging of your strawberry plant orders sometimes a very disagreeable job, but our loyal corps of plant diggers know that if your order of plants are dug and shipped to you during the cold of early spring while the plants are yet dormant, and heeled out by you, as instructed on page 8 until such a time as you can set them out, they will give you much better results. As fast as these men dig your plants they are sacked and hauled to one of our big basements, where they are protected from the sun and wind. The plants are carried from the basement to the tying rooms where all the dead leaves are removed, the roots straightened out and tied in neat bundles of 25 plants. The packer then packs the plants on your order in the best sphagnum moss. Your order is then carried to a cool basement where it is kept until a few minutes until the mail or express is due, when it is hauled quickly to town and mailed or expressed to you, and to every reader of this book we want to mail or express to you some of our wonderful fruit producing strawberry plants, and our low delivered price puts plants in reach of all. You have room in your garden or yard for a few strawberries. 100 plants will produce a lot of berries, 300 plants will supply your table and leave some to can and sell. Order a few this year, you will want more next. Just fill out order sheet and mail today.



Trinidad, B. W. I., December 19, 1925.
 The small lot you send by Parcel Post arrived all O. K. You will be interested to learn that some of the Missionary Plants are flowering already.
 Gerald R. Wight.



ASPARAGUS VERY PROFITABLE

IN GREAT DEMAND IN ALL MARKETS. HOW TO PLANT, CULTIVATE AND MARKET.

Asparagus is grown for the tender young shoots which grow in great numbers from the roots early in the spring, and is considered by far the choicest of all early spring vegetables. It is in great demand in all markets, selling at very fancy prices, and is one of the most profitable crops grown. The demand for it is growing faster than the supply. Asparagus growing is still in its infancy. It is being planted only in a limited way and in but few localities. It would be more extensively grown if the proper way of planting, cultivating and marketing were generally known.

The land should be plowed thoroughly and deep and put in condition with a harrow. Rows should be marked off with a two-horse plow, four feet apart, going twice in the same furrow, making it as deep as possible. Plants may be set in the bottom of the plowed furrow, but to be the most successful we advise using a spade in the furrow, making a trench twelve inches deep and twelve inches wide. Then cover the bottom of this trench with two to three and one-half inches of good well-rotted stable manure, cover this manure with one and one-half inches of good rich soil, set your asparagus plants, 12 to 18 inches apart, on this soil, fan shaped, this will leave the crowns of the asparagus about five or six inches below the surface, cover the plants, by raking the soil in from the side of the trench, covering them a depth of one inch only. As soon as the crown sends a shoot through the one inch of soil, work another inch of soil over them and so on until you have a wide ridge of about three inches high. The soil can be worked to the plants by a cultivator. A field, when once established, will last for years.

Asparagus should be well fed with manure or commercial fertilizer, which can be applied at almost any season of the year. Manure is either spread on top of the row late in the fall and covered with a plow, thus leaving a ridge until spring, or is applied in a furrow close to the row, either in spring, summer or fall. This gets the manure close to the roots and is considered the best way to use either manure or commercial fertilizer. Stock peas can also be used to help in fertilization and to keep the soil loose. They can be sowed broadcast when the cutting season is over.

Cutting for market commences one year after planting as soon as the stalks are a few inches high.

The cutting should be very light the first year, nor should the season be long. The second year more may be cut, and the season may be longer. By the third year the asparagus field will have reached maturity, and the cutting should include every stalk that puts up, and may continue as long as the market will justify and the weather will permit. The shipping season of the well matured field will last from six to eight weeks, sometimes longer. It is not advisable to continue cutting after the stalks commence to diminish in size or spindle.

Keep all the stalks cut during the shipping season, even if some are too small to ship. The cutting should be done every day during the shipping season. The stalks are tied in bunches with tape or rubber bands, each bunch containing a handful of stalks. The stalks in the center of the bunch should be as large as those on the outside. After the stalks are bunched, cut the butts of the stalks off smooth with a knife, leaving the bunch the proper length for the box.

For shipping they are packed in sectional boxes, each section holding one bunch, with twenty-four bunches to a box. When packed, box and contents weigh about twenty-two pounds.

There is always a good profit in asparagus, but strictly fancy stalks always sell for the highest price. To get the best price, grow the best asparagus by liberal cultivation and fertilization, and pack it so that it will be attractive.

The varieties we offer are dependable ones—of high order and superior merit. and in advocating the growing of this popular spring vegetable we do so with a sincere feeling that the grower's well directed efforts will return to him a profit that can be compared with but few if any other vegetable.

ASPARAGUS

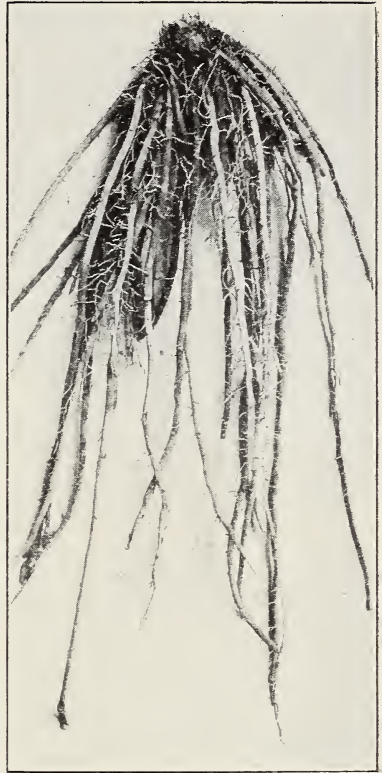
This is one of the most profitable crops grown. It is a very easy crop to grow and handle. It is ready for market very early in the spring, as soon as the frost is out of the ground. A field well planted will last a life time. No vegetable garden is complete without it. Twenty-five plants will furnish a large family with all they can use. To those who are interested in asparagus growing be sure to read our treatise on asparagus on page 14.

VARIETIES

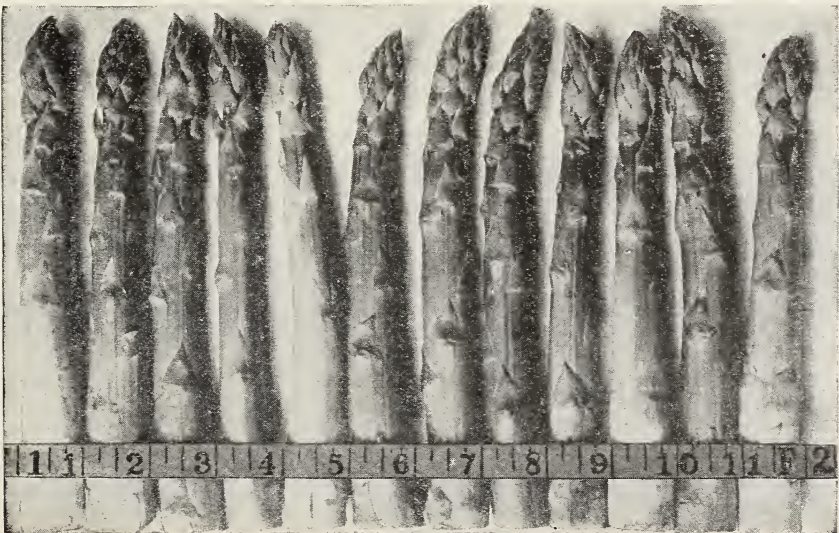
FRENCH GIANT ARGENTUEIL—

This is becoming one of the leading varieties of asparagus, and is being planted more extensively now than all other sorts. Its stalks are of mammoth size and of the highest quality. It is always in demand in the market and sells for the best price.

PALMETTO—Produces shoots of very large size, which make it very valuable for market, and is now being planted largely. The French Giant Argentueil and Palmetto are the leading varieties.



Asparagus Root



Palmetto

HARVESTING THE CROP

Preparation for the care of the crop should be completed before the berries are ready to pick; packing sheds fully equipped and conveniently located, carriers for pickers to carry their berry boxes in, tickets or suitable checks to give the pickers for the quarts they pick, later to be redeemed at a stipulated price per quart, crates for the berries, wagons or trucks up in good repair for hauling so that no unnecessary delay will occur when the busy time is on. Everything should be in readiness. Usually there is not much difficulty in getting pickers. The task is not hard, and the old and young can assist, but too small children should not be allowed in the fields. In the larger Strawberry Centers it is sometimes necessary to import help to harvest the crop, this should be attended to early and a place provided for them to live in while the harvest is on. The management in the field will depend on the number of pickers used and the class of laborers. Usually there should be an efficient foreman, to every 20 or 25 pickers, to see that they properly pick the berries, and follow the rules as established by the grower. Pickers should not be allowed to snap the berries off of the stems, but should pick them with $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch stem on them, they should not take too many boxes to the field at one time, they should pick their rows clean of all ripe berries picking also all bad berries from the vines and throwing them away in the field. Pickers should not be allowed to run over or lounge on the rows mashing the ripe berries and injuring the green ones. If the grower is sure of his pickers, it is sometimes all right, to only face the boxes as brought in from the field, in the packing shed, but usually it is best to repack from the bottom up.

MARKETING

There is always a Home Market for Strawberries, and a Home Market properly cared for can be made one of the most profitable Markets. The hard road systems, have open other markets, the Road Side Market, and the nearby town Markets by truck. Furnish your customer with a straight honest pack, and you will find that they will remember you from year to year, and that they will place their orders with you, for berries, long before harvest. In large Strawberry Producing Centers, the Home Market cannot, of course, absorb all the strawberries produced, and they must ship to a distant Market. Where Strawberries are to be shipped in any great quantity, the growers should form a Shipping Association. The most valuable of these Associations are those that control the sale of the strawberries, and sell all fruit on tract for the grower. Other Shipping Association do not control the sale of the fruit, but attend to the ordering of cars, see that they are properly loaded iced etc., and then consigned to an unloader or receiver in the city, who unloads and distributes the goods. This gives the grower the advantage of carload rates and still allows him the privilege of consigning his goods to whom he pleases. Remember that the strawberry is a seasonal fruit, and not on the market the year round as is the Apple, Orange, etc. and that the customer will remember from year to year whether you gave a good pack or not, and he will buy from you or not, accordingly.



Last year we planted some strawberries that the Agronomical Station advised us to buy from you and the result has been far beyond our expectations. The varieties were Missionary and Lady Corneille. We are so pleased that we recommend your plants to every one interested. Two hundred plants gave us a little basket full every day during three months. We made a rustic pergola and covered the beds with wire netting and palm leaves so that the rain would not spoil the flowers, etc., and watered by subirrigation, the result was surprising to all.—Mrs. E. Alvarez Cerice, Cuba, Nov. 21, 1925.



Thomas' Pure Bred Plants in Southern California.



Thomas' Pure Bred Plants under Irrigation in Idaho.

Last fall I ordered 2,500 Klondyke berry plants from you. These plants were received in good condition; and were by far the healthiest and best I have ever seen. This year I want 3,500 plants.—Jerome Kimball. Texas, Sept. 7, 1925.

The enclosed check of \$2.00 is in payment for your receipted voucher covering strawberry plants. These reached us in good condition.—D. W. May, Director U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Porto Rico Agricultural Experimental Station.

My strawberry plants shipped Nov. 2 arrived in good shape and are doing well. Mary T. Wolfe, Nov. 23, 1925.

Please send me 200 Klondyke Strawberry plants. Your previous shipment arrived in good shape, since putting them out I want to increase the size of the patch and just need 200 for that purpose.—Mrs. Wm. Broyles, Texas, Oct. 26, 1925.

I was very much pleased with the few plants I ordered from you last year. Please send me 1,000 Missionary.—Mrs. C. N. Brooks, Nov. 5, 1925.

Have ordered plants several times from you; have always been well pleased with your selection.—Mrs. Erin Amos, Georgia, Nov. 25, 1925.

Note prices are little higher this year: can buy cheaper elsewhere but know you have good plants and will give you my order.—J. A. Ellis, Alabama, Nov. 4, 1925.

Please forward same at once, we having had such wonderful results from your plants last year.—Mrs. Geo. Cupples, Florida, Oct. 20, 1925.



Thomas' Pure Bred Plants, Hill Culture in Florida.



Double Row of Thomas' Pure Bred Plants in Florida.

THE DOUBLE ROW METHOD

In all states south of those mentioned, under the Matted Row Method (with few exceptions), in Florida and most of the other Gulf States, as well as in Southern California, the double row method is found to be good and is generally practiced. The two rows are planted 12 to 15 inches apart, with plants one foot apart in the row, planted so that they do not come opposite but half way between the plants in the other row. A space of 2 to 3 feet are left between each set of two rows. In using this method all the runners are usually kept cut off, none allowed to root. In most of the South where this method of growing is followed, the plants are set anew each season, only one crop being harvested from them. They are planted in the fall in the months of October, November and December and bear berries in January, February and March. The above is also true of the Hill Method, and plants are usually cultivated, in both methods, until they commence to bloom, when cultivation is stopped and plants mulched to protect the berries from dirt and sand. This is a good method to practice in any locality and good results may be expected.



THE HILL METHOD

Under this method strawberries are planted 2 or 3 feet apart each way. Sometimes they are planted only one way, in rows 30 inches to 3½ feet apart, and plants not more than 12 inches apart in the row. Runners are kept cut off so that the plant will develop in as large, thrifty plants as possible. Very fine berries are grown this way and some prefer it to the double row. While this method is more usually employed, in Florida, and other Southern states, where most of the strawberries are set in the fall months and ripe fruit is gathered within a few weeks after setting it may very profitably be used in those sections where strawberries are cultivated during one summer before they fruit.



Matted Row of Thomas' Pure Bred Plants in Illinois.

THE MATTED ROW METHOD

Strawberries throughout the states of North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and those states to the north of them are generally grown in a matted row varying in width from 18 inches to three feet. The proper width of the matted row should be from 18 inches to 2 feet. There are more strawberries grown in the matted rows than under any other method. In the states above named it is no doubt the most practical way of growing. Plants should be planted in rows $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet apart and anywhere from 1 to 2 feet apart in the row, according to varieties, soil and locality. Varieties that make but few plants should be planted closer in the row than those that make plants freely. The fertility of the soil should also be considered. If the land is rich plants can be planted further apart than if not so fertile; however, as advised elsewhere in this book, land that is poor should either be fertilized thoroughly or not planted. Localities that are droughty or where plants do not grow rapidly will require plants closer.



THE NARROW MATTED ROW

Plant about the same as for matted row, except the rows may be closer. The row is usually allowed to become about one foot wide, then all runners are cut off. This is a very satisfactory way, followed by many. Some will advise not to let the first plants set, but our 36 years of experience advises you to let the first runners set, and then, after your row has made the required width cut off all runners as they appear.

The Strawberries arrived the 30th and in good condition, which I planted at once and they are growing off fine. I also thank you for the extra plants. I am well pleased with them.—Roy Morse, Florida, Nov. 7, 1925.

I can get plants closer for \$3.25 per 1,000, but I want the best.—W. A. Williams, Texas, Nov. 7, 1925.

Your name was given me by Mr. Jesse Reis as a dealer in strawberry plants that are first class plants and good bearers.—Bruno Renisch, Florida, Oct. 13, 1925.



Thomas' Pure Bred Plants in Bermuda.

The thick heavy rows at the right of the picture show how Thomas' Pure Bred Plants grow in Bermuda. The other part of the field was planted with plants from other sources.

For several years always find your plants first class, and always take pleasure to recommend them.—W. H. Reagan, Florida, Oct. 23, 1925.

Please send 2,000 Missionary plants and 1,000 Lady Thompson. Other plants arrived O. K.; am pleased.—James Bennett, Florida, Nov. 3, 1925.

Plants arrived in excellent condition.—Mrs. Geo. Cupples, Florida, Nov. 2, 1925.



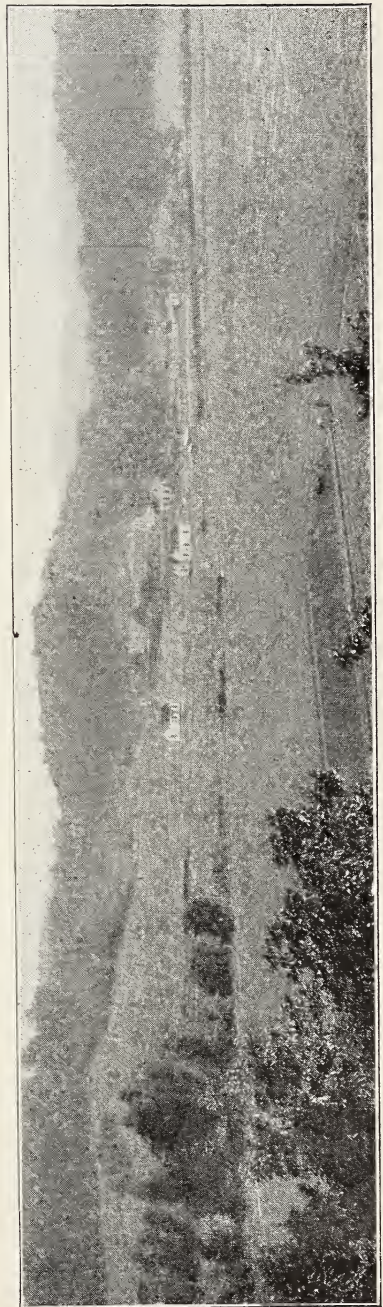
Matted Row of Thomas' Pure Bred Plants in Texas.

Southern Illinois is called America's Egypt, and why is an interesting story told briefly here. In early days the farmer of the Central and the Northern part of Illinois in famine years, journeyed to Southern Illinois to buy their corn, thus likened to the Egypt of old, where Jacob's sons journeyed for corn this country derived the name Egypt. And Dutch Creek like the Nile of old Egypt, yearly overflows, and leaves a deposit of soil that produces Strawberry Plants famous for their wonderful fruit producing qualities.

Thomasville is in one of the widest and most fertile Valleys along Dutch Creek and here in the environments, that are as natural for Strawberry Plant Culture as the cold of the north is for the Polar Bear, **Thomas Pure Bred Strawberry Plants** are grown.



Two views of Dutch Creek Valley (The Nile of America's Egypt) and Thomasville where the world's famous fruit producing Strawberry Plants are grown.



THOMAS' PURE BRED STRAWBERRY PLANTS



Price List Spring 1926

W. W. Thomas, The Strawberry Plant Man

ANNA, ILLINOIS

Quantity lot buyers, write for special discount rate.

For those who wish only a few strawberries for their garden, we have listed a prepaid price, by parcel post, on plants in lots of twenty-five to five hundred. The price which appears opposite any given quantity of plants applies separately to each variety in that column and not to a combination of varieties. For example: 100 Klondyke are priced at \$1.05 postpaid, 50 Lady Corneille and 50 Klondyke will be \$1.10 postpaid. Regardless of how many varieties you may order, figure the price for each variety separately the same as though you were ordering that one variety only. More than 500 plants of any one variety are sold at the thousand rate by express collect. Please note the first set of prices are for plants by Parcel Post Post-paid.

PLEASE WRITE VERY PLAINLY AND BE SURE YOUR ORDER IS CORRECTLY MADE OUT

Missionary (S)	Klondyke (S)	Excelsior (S)	Gandy (S)	Tenn. Prolific (S)	Dr. Burrill (S)	Aroma (S)	Gilson (S)	Mitchel Early (S)	Haverland (P)	Lady Thompson (S)	Premier (S)	Big Joe (S)	Brandywine (S)	Chesapeake (S)	Everbearers	Progressive	Champion
25 plants.....\$.30	25 plants.....\$.35	25 plants.....\$.40	25 plants.....\$.45	25 plants.....\$.50	25 plants.....\$.55	50 plants.....\$.60	50 plants.....\$.65	50 plants.....\$.70	50 plants.....\$.75	50 plants.....\$.80	50 plants.....\$.85	50 plants.....\$.90	50 plants.....\$.95	50 plants.....\$ 1.00	50 plants.....\$ 1.05	50 plants.....\$ 1.10	50 plants.....\$ 1.15
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250 plants.....\$ 1.75	250 plants.....\$ 1.80	250 plants.....\$ 1.85	250 plants.....\$ 1.90	250 plants.....\$ 1.95	250 plants.....\$ 2.00	300 plants.....\$ 2.05	300 plants.....\$ 2.10	300 plants.....\$ 2.15	300 plants.....\$ 2.20	300 plants.....\$ 2.25	300 plants.....\$ 2.30	300 plants.....\$ 2.35	300 plants.....\$ 2.40	300 plants.....\$ 2.45	300 plants.....\$ 2.50	300 plants.....\$ 2.55	300 plants.....\$ 2.60
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400 plants.....\$ 2.50	400 plants.....\$ 2.55	400 plants.....\$ 2.60	400 plants.....\$ 2.65	400 plants.....\$ 2.70	400 plants.....\$ 2.75	500 plants.....\$ 2.80	500 plants.....\$ 2.85	500 plants.....\$ 2.90	500 plants.....\$ 2.95	500 plants.....\$ 3.00	500 plants.....\$ 3.05	500 plants.....\$ 3.10	500 plants.....\$ 3.15	500 plants.....\$ 3.20	500 plants.....\$ 3.25	500 plants.....\$ 3.30	500 plants.....\$ 3.35
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Prices below are F. O. B. Anna, Illinois. Not Prepaid. Write us for special quotations on large quantities of plants.

NOT PREPAID—BY EXPRESS COLLECT—NOT PREPAID

25 plants.....\$.25	25 plants.....\$.30	25 plants.....\$.35	25 plants.....\$.40	25 plants.....\$.45	25 plants.....\$.50	25 plants.....\$.55	25 plants.....\$.60	25 plants.....\$.65	25 plants.....\$.70	25 plants.....\$.75	25 plants.....\$.80	25 plants.....\$.85	25 plants.....\$.90	25 plants.....\$.95	25 plants.....\$ 1.00	25 plants.....\$ 1.05	25 plants.....\$ 1.10
50 plants.....\$.40	50 plants.....\$.50	50 plants.....\$.65	50 plants.....\$.75	50 plants.....\$.85	50 plants.....\$.95	50 plants.....\$ 1.05	50 plants.....\$ 1.15	50 plants.....\$ 1.25	50 plants.....\$ 1.35	50 plants.....\$ 1.45	50 plants.....\$ 1.55	50 plants.....\$ 1.65	50 plants.....\$ 1.75	50 plants.....\$ 1.85	50 plants.....\$ 1.95	50 plants.....\$ 2.05	50 plants.....\$ 2.15
100 plants.....\$.75	100 plants.....\$.85	100 plants.....\$ 1.00	100 plants.....\$ 1.10	100 plants.....\$ 1.20	100 plants.....\$ 1.30	100 plants.....\$ 1.40	100 plants.....\$ 1.50	100 plants.....\$ 1.60	100 plants.....\$ 1.70	100 plants.....\$ 1.80	100 plants.....\$ 1.90	100 plants.....\$ 2.00	100 plants.....\$ 2.10	100 plants.....\$ 2.20	100 plants.....\$ 2.30	100 plants.....\$ 2.40	100 plants.....\$ 2.50
200 plants.....\$ 1.15	200 plants.....\$ 1.35	200 plants.....\$ 1.80	200 plants.....\$ 2.00	200 plants.....\$ 2.20	200 plants.....\$ 2.40	200 plants.....\$ 2.60	200 plants.....\$ 2.80	200 plants.....\$ 3.00	200 plants.....\$ 3.20	200 plants.....\$ 3.40	200 plants.....\$ 3.60	200 plants.....\$ 3.80	200 plants.....\$ 4.00	200 plants.....\$ 4.20	200 plants.....\$ 4.40	200 plants.....\$ 4.60	200 plants.....\$ 4.80
300 plants.....\$ 1.55	300 plants.....\$ 1.85	300 plants.....\$ 2.40	300 plants.....\$ 2.70	300 plants.....\$ 3.00	300 plants.....\$ 3.30	300 plants.....\$ 3.60	300 plants.....\$ 3.90	300 plants.....\$ 4.20	300 plants.....\$ 4.50	300 plants.....\$ 4.80	300 plants.....\$ 5.10	300 plants.....\$ 5.40	300 plants.....\$ 5.70	300 plants.....\$ 6.00	300 plants.....\$ 6.30	300 plants.....\$ 6.60	300 plants.....\$ 6.90
400 plants.....\$ 1.90	400 plants.....\$ 2.35	400 plants.....\$ 2.80	400 plants.....\$ 3.20	400 plants.....\$ 3.60	400 plants.....\$ 4.00	400 plants.....\$ 4.40	400 plants.....\$ 4.80	400 plants.....\$ 5.20	400 plants.....\$ 5.60	400 plants.....\$ 6.00	400 plants.....\$ 6.40	400 plants.....\$ 6.80	400 plants.....\$ 7.20	400 plants.....\$ 7.60	400 plants.....\$ 8.00	400 plants.....\$ 8.40	400 plants.....\$ 8.80
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1000 plants.....\$ 4.00	1000 plants.....\$ 5.00	1000 plants.....\$ 6.00	1000 plants.....\$ 7.00	1000 plants.....\$ 8.00	1000 plants.....\$ 9.00	1000 plants.....\$ 10.00	1000 plants.....\$ 11.00	1000 plants.....\$ 12.00	1000 plants.....\$ 13.00	1000 plants.....\$ 14.00	1000 plants.....\$ 15.00	1000 plants.....\$ 16.00	1000 plants.....\$ 17.00	1000 plants.....\$ 18.00	1000 plants.....\$ 19.00	1000 plants.....\$ 20.00	1000 plants.....\$ 21.00
5000 plants.....\$ 18.75	5000 plants.....\$ 23.75	5000 plants.....\$ 28.50	5000 plants.....\$ 33.25	5000 plants.....\$ 38.00	5000 plants.....\$ 42.75	5000 plants.....\$ 47.50	5000 plants.....\$ 52.25	5000 plants.....\$ 57.00	5000 plants.....\$ 61.75	5000 plants.....\$ 66.50	5000 plants.....\$ 71.25	5000 plants.....\$ 76.00	5000 plants.....\$ 80.75	5000 plants.....\$ 85.50	5000 plants.....\$ 90.25	5000 plants.....\$ 95.00	5000 plants.....\$ 99.75

ASPARAGUS—PALMETTO OR FRENCH GIANT ARGENTUEIL VARIETIES

25 plants, postpaid.....\$.60	100 plants, postpaid.....\$ 1.75
50 plants, postpaid.....\$ 1.00	1000 plants, by express collect.....\$ 8.00

RHUBARB

6 plants, postpaid.....\$.50	25 plants, postpaid.....\$ 1.75
12 plants, postpaid.....\$ 1.00	100 plants, postpaid.....\$ 6.00

HORSERADISH

6 sets, postpaid.....\$.35	25 sets, postpaid.....\$ 1.00
12 sets, postpaid.....\$.60	

Rhubarb and Asparagus very profitable to grow. Will be glad to quote special discounts on quantity lot orders for either.



A Corner of the Test Bed.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Order early. This is very important. Plants shipped early and heeled out as per instructions in our catalog, can be set out by you at the first favorable time. Plants set in the late spring will not do as well as those set earlier.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT—We acknowledge your order promptly and if you do not receive acknowledgement within a reasonable time, write us giving full description of your order and remittance. A postal notice will be mailed the day your order is shipped.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Advise us promptly of change of address, giving both your old and new address, and always sign your name the same.

TERMS AND REMITTANCES—Cash with order unless otherwise especially agreed. Plants will be sent C. O. D. where one-third of the amount accompanies the order. Remit by Post Office money Order, New York, Chicago, St. Louis Draft, or Express Order.

OUR GUARANTEE—We exercise the greatest care to keep our plants pure and true to name, and hold ourselves in readiness to replace on proof all stock that may prove otherwise, but it is mutually agreed between the purchaser and ourselves that we shall not be liable for any amount greater than the original price of the goods.

CLAIMS—Any claim for mistakes or adjustment must be made promptly upon receipt of plants. In reporting and discrepancy please state the number of plants of each variety, also number of crates or packages received and date received. This will assist us in making a prompt investigation.

SHIPMENTS—Thomas Pure Bred Plants are delivered to the transportation companies in first class condition. We know that they are sometimes delayed or otherwise damaged in transit. We also know from experience the disappointment in receiving such damaged stock, and we, unlike most other strawberry plant growers will replace any plants you may receive from us that are not in first class shape, or satisfactory to you when received by you. If no complaint is made before the third day after plants are received we can not be further responsible for the plants or for the crop, nor can we be responsible for our inability to fill any order on account of shortage of plants, conditions resulting from an act of nature, labor situations or any conditions beyond our control.

It is mutually understood and agreed between the customers and ourselves that all orders are placed and accepted in accordance with the terms and conditions herein provided.

SUBSTITUTION—It is sometimes necessary to substitute, and if when it comes time to ship your order we are unable to furnish certain varieties you have ordered, may we substitute in their place varieties of equal or greater value? It is very important that you write Substitute or No Substitute when ordering plants in the spring, naming a second choice of varieties if substitution will meet with your approval. If you do not indicate your wish we shall presume that you wish us to use our judgment. We shall not substitute however unless necessary.

When you write us or send order, we will appreciate it if you will include the names of some of your friends and neighbors who you think would be glad to receive one of our catalogues. Do not fail to send your order early.

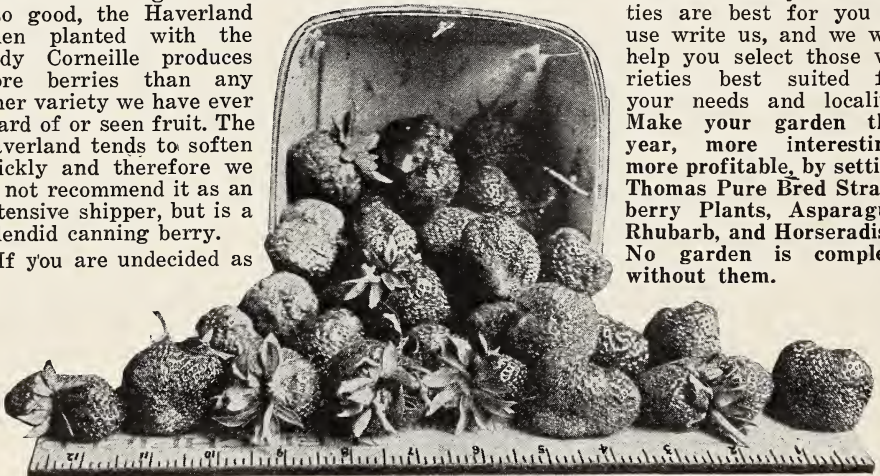
Growing good Strawberry Plants since 1890.

THOMAS PURE BRED STRAWBERRY PLANTS

Are packed right, grown right, and are right. This has been our business for thirty-six years. We believe that the different varieties of strawberries can be improved by careful selection and breeding, the same as can horses, hogs or cattle, so instead of introducing new varieties at a very high price to the customer every year, we have confined our efforts to improving the proven and tried varieties, and the wonderful results our customers have with our plants is evidence that we have succeeded and proven our belief. Every year we carefully select plants, that show the greatest vigor and best developed characteristic, of that variety.

These plants selected are set in our breeding beds, and every year for three years, we carefully re-select and cull out plants in these breeding beds, before our final selection is made for plants that go in our fields, from which we dig and ship your plants. Twenty-five plants out of every thousand of these plants set in our breeding bed are set in our test beds where their fruiting habits are carefully checked and noted. By this method we are continually improving the quality of our plants, and by never allowing the plants which we send you to fruit or bloom while in our nursery, you are assured of getting plants that are vigorous, full of life, and have not had their vitality sapped by being produced by a mother plant that has borne fruit. And, using the many testimonials we receive as evidence we lay claim that our Missionary and Excelsior for early, Klondyke, Dunlap, and Lady Corneille for mid-season, Aroma and Gandy for late will produce fruit and prove a profit payer without a peer in the sections to which they are adapted and with the exception that the Dunlap should not be planted in the Southern part of the United States, nor the Klondyke in the Northern part, these varieties can be grown in all sections of the country, and can not be beaten for shipping or home use. They are the universal strawberries. What the Ford motor car is to the motor world, these varieties are to the strawberry world. If you want to pay a little higher price for more class, we would recommend the Chesapeake, while we do not consider it a profitable shipper because it is a shy plant maker and producer, nor an extra good canner, it undoubtedly has the best flavor of all strawberries, and to eat from the vine or as fresh fruit on the table with sugar and cream it is unbeatable. We believe every garden should have at least twenty-five of these plants. The Big Joe is also good, the Haverland when planted with the Lady Corneille produces more berries than any other variety we have ever heard of or seen fruit. The Haverland tends to soften quickly and therefore we do not recommend it as an extensive shipper, but is a splendid canning berry.

If you are undecided as



to what variety or varieties are best for you to use write us, and we will help you select those varieties best suited for your needs and locality. Make your garden this year, more interesting, more profitable, by setting Thomas Pure Bred Strawberry Plants, Asparagus, Rhubarb, and Horseradish. No garden is complete without them.

SPECIAL BARGAIN ORDER SHEET

W. W. THOMAS

THE STRAWBERRY PLANT MAN

ANNA, ILLINOIS

STRAWBERRIES

RHUBARB—ASPARAGUS—HORSERADISH

No Garden complete without them, no crop so easy and profitable to grow.

To all who would grow Strawberries and live South of a line from Baltimore thru St. Louis and to San Francisco, we recommend our BIG FOUR COLLECTION. Strawberries worthy of, and are all that their name implies.

MISSIONARY The Good Strawberry	KLONDYKE The Golden Strawberry	Lady Corneille The Perfect Strawberry	AROMA The Fragrant Strawberry
Collection No. 1.	Collection No. 2	Collection No. 3.	Collection No. 4.
100 Plants, 25 each of above with	200 Plants, 50 each of above with	400 Plants, 100 each of the above with	1000 Plants, 250 each of above with
25 Asparagus 6 Horseradish 3 Rhubarb	25 Asparagus 12 Horseradish 6 Rhubarb	50 Asparagus 25 Horseradish 12 Rhubarb	100 Asparagus 25 Horseradish 25 Rhubarb
Value \$2.65	Value \$4.15	Value \$7.20	Value \$13.15
Special Postpaid \$1.75	Special Postpaid \$3.50	Special Postpaid \$6.50	Special Postpaid \$12.00

If the Strawberry Plants only are wanted use first price below, if only vegetable roots are wanted use second price:

\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.75	\$8.00
\$.75	\$1.50	\$2.75	\$4.00

To all North of the above line, we recommend the following Strawberries equal in every respect to the above collections, for the Northern grower.

DR. BURRILL	DUNLAP	GIBSON	BIG JOE
Collection No. 5.	Collection No. 6	Collection No. 7.	Collection No. 8.
100 Plants, 25 each of above with	200 Plants, 50 each of above with	400 Plants, 100 each of above with	1000 Plants, 250 each of above with
25 Asparagus 6 Horseradish 3 Rhubarb	25 Asparagus 12 Horseradish 6 Rhubarb	50 Asparagus 25 Horseradish 12 Rhubarb	100 Asparagus 25 Horseradish 25 Rhubarb
Value \$2.75	Value \$4.15	Value \$7.40	Value \$13.70
Special Postpaid \$2.00	Special Postpaid \$3.75	Special Postpaid \$6.75	Special Postpaid \$12.50

If strawberries only are wanted use price below:

\$1.25	\$2.25	\$4.00	\$8.50
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World's Greatest Strawberry Plant Bargain \$2.20 value, \$1.00. Only one collection to one address.

Plants of our own selection, adapted for your particular location. An Illinois lady who was well pleased over our selection of 100 plants for her tells us she got from the 100 plants plenty of Strawberries to supply her table, gave some to her neighbors and canned seventeen quarts. You can do as well or better and that Strawberry Shortcake and Rhubarb Pie will taste twenty times better when made from fillin' of your own growing.

Collection No. 9	Collection No. 10	Collection No. 11.
100 Strawberry Plants	200 Strawberry Plants	400 Strawberry Plants
Our own selection with	Our own selection with	Our own selection with
25 Asparagus 6 Horseradish 3 Rhubarb	25 Asparagus 12 Horseradish 6 Rhubarb	50 Asparagus 12 Horseradish 12 Rhubarb
Regular Value \$2.20	Regular Value \$3.20	Regular Value \$5.50
Very Special Postpaid \$1.00	Very Special Postpaid \$1.75	Very Special Postpaid \$3.25

W. W. THOMAS, The Strawberry Plant Man, Anna, Ill. 192..

Enclosed \$ for which please send Postpaid Collection No. or the following plants:

.....

Name R. F. D. or St.
 Town Co. State
 Express Office

Write the names of some of your friends who you think would like to receive our catalogue on the back of this order.

We particularly welcome the small orders of the Home Gardener. We want to see Strawberries in every garden, no reason why they shouldn't be. Your order if for only twenty-five plants will be carefully rolled and mailed to you in a neat package as picture, which is lined with heavy parafine paper to hold the moisture to the roots of the plants insuring safe arrival of your plants. On larger mail orders of three hundred and up, and we recommend 300 plants as the right number for home use to supply the table, to can, and a few to sell your neighbors, we pack in baskets as pictured.



All Thomas plants are guaranteed to reach you in a good condition, and we mean this. We ask of you if your plants reach you in bad shape, and are heated or dried out to notify us at once and we will replace them immediately. Our plants are packed carefully and leave here in good shape, but there are many things beyond our control, that sometimes cause plants to reach customers in poor condition, this damage in transit, unlike most other growers we assume. Our aim is not to trade you so many strawberry plants for so much of your money, but we wish to place something in your garden that will be a profit and pleasure to you. Money cannot buy the joy or proud thrill of accomplishment that is ours when we receive and read the many letters from our customers of the fine plants they received from us and the profit and pleasure derived from them.



Manager Robert E. Blaylock, in corner of Breeding Bed. Note the growth of plants. (Picture taken in June.) Also note one of the smaller of ten tenant houses on plant farm in which we house our permanent and experienced help. Our employes live right in the strawberry fields, so to speak, ever ready to give our plant fields the care and attention to make them the world famous fruit producing plants they are.



With Thomas' Pure Bred Strawberry Plants

Give Your Boy a Chance

to Show What He Can Do With an Acre of Strawberries

He's been a pretty good boy for you hasn't he? A real hustler FOR YOU. Perhaps he still is—or maybe he is beginning to look away from the old farm—maybe he has talked to you about hustling for himself. Give him a chance to do SOMETHING FOR HIMSELF—on the old farm. You do not want him to go away, and how about the mother—wouldn't she like to see him stay on the old place? Give him an acre—loan it to him—go shares with him—but SOME WAY get him started for himself on an acre or more. Have him set it out with Thomas Pure Bred Strawberry Plants. We will choose the varieties best suited to your soil and climate. Give him a chance and the first thing you know he will be making more dollars for money invested and ground used than you will be making off any other part of your farm. Here's a way for you to square up with the boy for past faithfulness.

And say—

Why Not Fix Up An Acre for the Wife, Too

Let her have all the profits from it. That \$250.00 to \$500.00 would come in mighty handy. Perhaps it would help out on that piano, those rugs, chairs, or other furniture that you know she wants.

The profit from an acre of Thomas Pure Bred Strawberry Plants would give you and your wife a nice outing for a week or two. A trip with you would give her pleasure and do you both a world of good. Say, how long is it since you and your wife have had a real vacation? Perhaps you have had some, but how about you AND the wife? "Strawberry money" pays for outings. Why not get busy and have some "strawberry money" of your own?

"Strawberry money" is "college money" in our home. Does the boy and girl want to go to college? "Strawberry money" is the easy way.



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