

RENOVATING THE OLD STRAWBERRY BED.

As soon as the bed is done fruiting, mow with an ordinary mowing machine, and allow the plants to lie for three or four days, until the leaves become thoroughly dry. Stack up the straw or mulch between the rows, being careful not to scatter it too heavily on the rows. When all is well dried, and a good breeze is blowing from the proper quarter, set it on fire. The fire must run rapidly over the patch, so as not to kill the roots of the plants. As soon as it has burned over, begin cultivating between the rows. Narrow these rows down to one foot in width. After cultivating, thoroughly drag the field. Loosen up the soil about the plants and level the ground. After this, cultivate once a week, the same as plants set in the spring. A top-dressing of well rotted manure is also very beneficial at this season of the year, as it promotes a good healthy growth of vines for the next season's crop. Remember to cultivate at once after burning, as the ashes are still on the ground and will aid beneficially in fertilizing the next year's crop. If neglected for some days, the ashes may be blown off.—Allan D. Manwell.

AN EASY WAY TO IRRIGATE.

I am a believer in shallow and continuous cultivation for all hoed crops. In dry weather there is no other way in which we can lock up so much moisture until the roots are able to appropriate it. Keep off the ground when it is wet, but just as soon as it is in condition to work, cultivate with the best tool you have at hand. Last spring I purchased a weeder No. 4, with curved teeth, and I must say that I never used a tool that pleased me so much, or that saved so much labor. My strawberries were taken care of with this tool up to July with only one hand hoeing, and I never had strawberry fields so free from weeds. I haven't felt the need of irrigation on strawberry fields the first season, as by shallow cultivation in dry times the plants can be kept growing.—(J. C. Eddy.)