

FALL CARE OF STRAWBERRIES.

Strawberries are better if covered lightly, say one inch, before the ground freezes, then later another inch, or just so you cannot see the plants or ground. This is particularly for new beds. For covering use nothing which contains foul seeds. Marsh hay is best unless on a very windy location; even then it can be weighted with dirt or brush. Clean straw is good. Bagasse, although heavy, makes a splendid mulch.

For old plantations there is not the same need of mulching or care to avoid weed seed, as the bed should be plowed under after the second crop. If there are any insect pests it is better to take only one crop and then plow under.

Manure mulch may be used for old beds and applied any time before March.

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BLACKBERRY CROPS.

No blackberry can be brought to perfection without abundant moisture. This can be secured by keeping the ground full of humus or vegetable matter and then begin cultivation early in the spring and keep it up after every rain. Careful experiments have proven that a loose earth mulch of three inches is best for conservation of moisture. The roots are prone to come near the surface to get the influence of the sun and oxygen of the air, and so if we adopt three inches as the proper depth, great care should be exercised to go no deeper, lest we tear the roots of the plant and deprive them of their feeders and cause them to send up many suckers, which become a nuisance.

The cultivation should continue regularly, at least once a week. When the ground is filled with water in the winter and spring we must not let it get away. Cultivation