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Yard'n' Garden



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Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.

For use week of
July 13, 1964



CARE OF THE STRAWBERRY PLANTING

By this time your June-bearing strawberries have finished fruiting and you should consider renovating the old planting to assure a good crop for next year.

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If your planting is like many, you probably have a solid bed of plants by now. Many of these are too crowded and will not produce good quality berries next year.

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To renovate your planting, mow the plants with a scythe or a mower. Rake up the leaves and mulch and remove them from the patch. This debris can be either burned or placed on a compost pile at some distance. Remember that strawberry diseases and insects may be harbored in the old mulch material.

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Stretch strings across the patch to mark the location of new rows. These should be on either side of the original row of plants. The new rows should be about 4 feet apart.

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Cultivate or plow out all the plants between the strings, leaving a narrow row about 8 inches wide under each string. With a hoe, thin out the plants in the remaining rows so they are spaced about 6 to 8 inches apart.

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A side dressing of a complete fertilizer applied at the rate of 1 pound per 25 feet of row will help the planting.

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New plants will soon form, and by fall you will have a new, well established bed ready for production next spring. Keep the planting cleanly cultivated and apply moisture during dry spells. Keep the new planting limited in width to 18 inches.

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Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Roland Abraham, Acting Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.