

**THE ILLUSTRATED STRAWBERRY
CULTURIST: CONTAINING THE HISTORY,
SEXUALITY, FIELD AND
GARDEN CULTURE OF STRAWBERRIES,
FORCING OR POT CULTURE, HOW TO
GROW FROM SEED, HYBRIDIZING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649018383

The illustrated strawberry culturist: containing the history, sexuality, field and garden culture of strawberries, forcing or pot culture, how to grow from seed, hybridizing by Andrew S. Fuller

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ANDREW S. FULLER

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HISTORY, SEXUALITY, FIELD AND GARDEN CULTURE OF STRAW-
BERRIES, FORCING OR POT CULTURE, HOW TO
GROW FROM SEED, HYBRIDIZING,

AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO ENABLE EVERYBODY TO RAISE
THEIR OWN STRAWBERRIES; TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF NEW
VARIETIES AND A LIST OF THE BEST OF THE OLD SORTS.

FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

BY ANDREW S. FULLER.

*Author of the "Grape Culturist," "Small Fruit Culturist," "Practical
Forestry," Etc., Etc.*



NEW YORK:
ORANGE JUDD COMPANY,
52 AND 54 LAFAYETTE PLACE,
1911

c-Botany

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1887, by the
O. JUDD CO.
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

SB 385
F7
1887

PREFACE.

It is now twenty-five years since I wrote the first edition of the STRAWBERRY CULTURIST. At that time but little attention had been paid to the cultivation of this best of all berries, and, with the exception of an occasional basket or crate of the Hovey and Wilson, New York markets were mostly supplied with the little Crimson Cone and Scotch Runner raised in New Jersey.

From time to time new varieties had been introduced at home and from abroad, and by copying all the names found in both European and American nurserymen's catalogues, I was enabled to make a list of nearly five hundred varieties, of which only a few survive. Among these may be named the Hovey, Wilson, Triomphe de Gaud, Lennig's White, Downer's Prolific and the Monthly Alpines, but, with one or two exceptions, these are very sparingly cultivated. The others have been discarded for inferiority of size or flavor, lack of productiveness, want of adaptability to a wide range of climate and soils, or for other good and sufficient reasons, and their places have been filled by varieties supposed to be better, and in such numbers as to confuse seekers after the best. But which is or are the best of all the varieties known would be a difficult question to answer; for the one that gives entire satisfaction in one section often proves a failure in another, and only experiments or close observation will teach one how to choose. Much credit is certainly due to those who have aided in producing new varieties, but the perfect Strawberry, equally

well adapted to all kinds of soils and climates has not as yet appeared in cultivation.

During the last quarter of a century botanists have somewhat changed their ideas in regard to the number and distribution of the species of the Strawberry, and while this may be of no especial importance to the practical cultivator of this fruit, still I have arranged the species to conform to the more recent discoveries of our botanists.

As regards the culture of the Strawberry I find little to change and less to add. In writing the *STRAWBERRY CULTURIST* (my first attempt at book making) I aimed to give the public the result of my practical experience in plain words. I have since that time experimented largely, but have learned nothing that induces me to change materially the directions therein given.

This little treatise has been re-written to supply a want of the present generation, and, with the hope that it will serve as did its predecessor to stimulate its readers in renewed efforts to produce the best of Berries and in the greatest abundance, I send it forth on its humble mission.

ANDREW S. FULLER.

RIDGEWOOD, N. J., Jan., 1887.

THE STRAWBERRY CULTURIST.

THE STRAWBERRY.

A genus of low perennial stemless herbs with runners, and leaves divided into three leaflets; calyx open and flat; petals five, white; stamens ten to twenty, sometimes more; pistils numerous, crowded upon a cone-like head in the center of the flower. Seeds naked on the surface of an enlarged pulpy receptacle called the fruit.

The Strawberry belongs to the great Rose family, and the name of the genus is *Fragaria*, from the Latin *Fraga*, its ancient name. The French name of the strawberry is *Fraisier*; German, *Erdbeerpflanze*; Italian, *Planta di fragola*; Dutch, *Aadbezie*; Spanish, *Freza*. The South American Spaniards call the wild Strawberries of the country, *Frutilla*.

The well-known unstable character of the species makes it rather difficult to determine the limit of variation, but the following classification is in accord with the experience of practical cultivators of the Strawberry as well as with the more recent arrangement of the species in botanical works.

***Fragaria vesca*.**—The common wild Strawberry of Europe, including both the White and Red Wood, also the annual and Monthly Alpine Strawberries. Of the latter there are varieties with both white and red fruit,

growing in stools or clumps producing no runners, or very sparingly. This species is also indigenous to North America and found plentifully in our more northern States, and westward to the Rocky Mountains, where it grows in the more elevated and cooler regions. The plants are slender, with thin, often pale-green leaflets; fruit small, oval, oblong, or sharp pointed; seeds quite prominent, never depressed.

Fragaria Californica.—A low-growing species closely allied to the *F. vesca*, but thought to be specifically distinct by some botanists. The entire plant covered with spreading hairs; leaves rather thin, wedge-shaped and broadest at the tip. Flowers, small white; calyx shorter than the petals, and often toothed or cleft; fruit small, and seed as in *vesca*. On the hills and mountains of California and in northern Mexico. There are no varieties of this species in cultivation.

Fragaria Virginiana.—The Wild Strawberry of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Plant, with few or numerous scattering hairs; upper surface of leaves often very dark green and shining, also very large, thick, coarsely toothed. Flowers, white, in clusters on erect scapes. Fruit red or scarlet, often with long neck; seeds in shallow or deep pits on the surface of the receptacle. This species is the parent of an immense number of varieties, like the Wilson, Boston Pine, Early Scarlet, &c.

Variety.—**Illinoensis** is found in the rich soils of the Western States and is a larger and coarser growing plant, more villous or hairy than the species, and the fruit is usually of a lighter color. Some of the most popular varieties in cultivation are descended from this indigenous western variety, such as the Charles Downing, Downer's Prolific, &c.

Fragaria Chiliensis.—A widely distributed species, especially on the west coast of America, where it is found from Alaska on the north, southward to California, and thence to Chili and other countries in South America. It is usually a low-growing, spreading plant with large thick cuneate, obovate leaflets, smooth and shining above; with silky appressed hairs underneath. Fruit stalks very stout; flowers white, large, often more than an inch in diameter and with five to seven petals. Formerly these large flowered varieties from South America were supposed to belong to a distinct species—the *F. grandiflora*, or Great-Flowering Strawberry; but more recent investigation has shown that all belong to the one species, viz., *F. Chiliensis*. This species is the parent of the most noted European varieties, some of which have long been cultivated in this country, but the varieties of the Virginian and Chili Strawberry have become so intermingled by crossing that it is now scarcely possible to trace their parentage.

Fragaria Indica.—A small species from Upper India, with yellow flowers, and small red, rather tasteless fruit. Often cultivated as a curiosity and ornament, as the plants bear continuously through the summer and autumn.

Fragaria elatior.—Hautbois or Highwood Strawberry. Indigenous to Europe, principally in Germany. Plants tall growing; fruit usually elevated above the leaves, and the calyx strongly reflexed; petals small, white; fruit brownish, pale red, sometimes greenish, with a strong musky, and, to most persons, a disagreeable flavor. Only sparingly cultivated. The plants are inclined to be dioecious, i. e., the two sexes on different plants, even in their wild state.