with most vegetable varieties. Infected strawberry plants make poor plant growth and runner production and produce low yields of fruit. The Missionary variety of strawberry became infected with viruses, with the result that yields of fruit were so low that growers said the variety was "running out." The United States Department of Agriculture has established a virus-free line of Missionary.

As yet, virus infection has not been found in plants of the Florida Ninety variety. Plant lines which have been maintained in Florida stay clean because the insects which transmit virus diseases of strawberry are never numerous in the plant-growing areas of the State.

BLACK ROOT

Black root is not typically an injury. The condition probably is physiological, occurring on older plants. The root cortex or bark may become dark brown to black. This dark colored cortex readily peels off, showing that the central cylinder is still white and alive. Such roots can put out new lateral roots and under favorable growing conditions will support a vigorously growing plant which will put on a good crop of fruit.

Black root occurs mainly on older plants in the nursery beds. Two or 3 weeks before such plants are to be set in the field, loosen the soil around them with a potato fork or pitchfork. This helps to aerate the soil so that old black roots will put out new laterals, and within 2 or 3 weeks plants will be in much better condition for setting in the field.

SCLEROTIUM ROT

This rot is caused by a soil-inhabiting fungus, *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc., which develops most rapidly during hot, moist weather. For this reason, the disease is found mainly during the summer months on plants in nursery fields, especially in lower, wetter portions of these fields. The fungus grows through the soil and attacks plants at the soil line. From there it progresses upward into the fleshy part of the plants and also downward into the roots. Complete death of plants may be quite sudden. Under conditions of high humidity and moist soil a white mat of compressed cottony growth of the fungus may be found around the base of the plant. Small round bodies, sclerotia, which are white at first and later dark brown appear scattered over the surface of the white mat. These sclerotia, about