



A British Columbia Cherry Orchard in Bloom

fitable. They keep in good condition longer and the prices received have been the best. It is not wise to let the suckers grow unless they are in the hill or near it.

In the case of the raspberry, cultivation has three purposes: To make the all-important "dust mulch," to prevent weeds, and to keep suckers from growing. But cultivation answers for all three.

I allow four to eight young plants to grow up in each hill. The nearer these are together the better. It must be remembered that the young plants that grow the first year are the ones that bear the berries the next year, after which they must be removed.

My object is to get the canes I allow to grow to have as good a growth as possible. For this reason I remove all but the ones I wish to keep, quite early in the season, when they are only tender sprouts from one to two feet high. Here are some reasons why I do this:

It is more easily and quickly done, the work is done before the fruiting season, and consequently the strength that would be used in these canes is partly used to make bigger berries and more of them, but what is highly important the young plants which remain have more than double the growth, thus ensuring a good crop the next year; if many of these new canes are allowed to remain they make the hills bushy and the pickers will not get all the berries. This alone is inducement enough to have it done at the proper time. It makes the removal of the old canes a much easier task. The young plants grow more stocky and branch out more if the ends are pinched off after they are five or six feet apart. Cultivation late in the season after picking is not wise, as it induces a growth of tender wood that does not ripen and is likely to winter kill. Old canes are best removed late in the season, in the winter or even spring.

## Cutting out the No. 3 Apples

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Improvement in the quality of the apple has not kept pace with the production. In the mad race for more fruit, too little attention has been given to "better fruit." As a poof of this assertion, of the ninety thousand barrels of Gravensteins produced in the Annapolis Valley last year thirty per cent. graded ones, while fifty-eight per cent. graded threes. I propose in this article to show how the threes may be largely eliminated. It involves better pruning, better cultivation, better fertilization, better spraying, better thinning.

### PRUNING

Not only should all dead, diseased, and crossing branches be removed yearly, but the whole tree should be opened up to air and sunshine by judicious pruning. Careful pruning not only increases the size of the fruit, but greatly improves its color; for color is now known to depend wholly on sunlight. Then, too, proper pruning has much to do with the production of fruit free from spot, for it is much easier to reach every part of a well pruned tree with spray, and it dries out sooner after a rain or heavy dew.

### CULTIVATION

Cultivation gives handsome returns in the Annapolis Valley. Fall plowing about three to four inches deep is the usual practice. It possesses the following advantages over spring plowing: Fall plowing makes it possible to work the soil several days earlier in the spring; it is an aid in the conservation of moisture; it covers the dead leaves which carry the spores of apple scab.

In the spring, as soon as the ground is fit, the orchard should be thoroughly harrowed. Afterward, the surface of the soil should be stirred lightly every week or ten days, for the destruction of weeds and the conservation of moisture. A cover crop, preferably one of the legumes, should be sown about July 1st, later if the season or the soil be dry, earlier if wet.

### FERTILIZATION

Annual crops of high grade fruit are only possible in orchards abundantly supplied with plant food. Stable manure at the rate of twelve tons an acre applied annually will give excellent results. Equally good results can be obtained from fertilizers along with cover crops. While no formula can be given that will be equally good for every orchard, the following may be suggested: Two hundred pounds nitrate of soda, three hundred and fifty pounds acid phosphate, and one hundred pounds potash. These amounts applied yearly are usually sufficient for an acre of orchard in full bearing. The nitrate of soda should be sown when the trees are