

Burns.—This is a Kansas seedling which we have fruited for three years, but which is generally unknown. We have found it more hardy, vigorous, and productive than Doolittle, and should plant it in preference.

Man-math Cluster. This covers more than three-fourths of our trade devoted to the black raspberry. It would hardly be just that proportion of new plantings. We consider that it pays twenty-five per cent more than any other black-cap, and are never able to satisfy the demand upon us for the berries. We will say further that a majority of consumers would prefer them for daily table use to the red raspberries.

And now a word as to the prospect of the raspberry as a paying crop to cultivate. We think in this section the demand for the fruit is fully up to, if not a little ahead of the supply, and if only a gradual and judicious extension is made from year to year, the business will be remunerative. It is not a business that properly belongs to the farmer—the man of large acres—but rather to the gardener, with few acres, near town or city, where cheap help can be secured, only obtained, and large quantities of manure, and markets are easily accessible.

Our own experience with the Clark does not corroborate the statement that it is more hardy than the Philadelphia. On the other hand we have found it to be much less hardy than Philadelphia. This season we had a splendid crop of fruit from the Philadelphia, but our canes of the Clark were so injured that we did not have more than half a crop. We believe that the Philadelphia is the most hardy and the most productive berry of its class yet brought out.

New Gooseberries.

A correspondent of the *Fruit Recorder* has raised a new gooseberry, and indulges concerning it in the following milk-maid's phantasy:—

"I send you a small limb of the Champion Gooseberry. This variety is a seedling from the English Crown Bob and Houghton seedling crossed. I have 53 bushes four years old, from which I have gathered and sold this season, 76 gallons of fine, large berries, at an average of 60 cents per gallon. Next season I calculate they will average two gallons to the plant. Suppose I sell for fifty cents per gallon—they will net me \$1 to the plant. It takes 1,750 plants to the acre, five feet apart. If you know of a gooseberry that will beat this, please let me know of it, or if any of your readers have one, or know of one that will yield more than this, I would like to get a few plants of it."

The Editor says of the fruit that he received that it was too green to tell anything as to flavor. Judging by the single specimen, it is certainly a remarkably prolific sort. The size, however, does not average but a trifle larger than the Houghton. Now we already have the Downing gooseberry, which is a size larger than the Houghton, and of fully as good flavor, and unless we can have something that is a decided advance on Houghton and Downing we had better do without the Champion altogether. We want a gooseberry yielding larger fruit and of better flavor, yet equally as productive and free from mildew as the Downing. Pray don't inflict anything less upon us.

When to Hoe-out Strawberry Beds.

"What's all that gang of hands doing on that new-set strawberry bed?"

"Hoeing them out."

"Hoeing them out? why, I don't see any weeds to hoe."

"Perhaps not, and we don't mean you shall sooner than we can possibly help. You see our berry season is fast coming on, and we don't want too much hoeing on our hands then. So we take time by the forelock. If you will look closely, you will see plenty of little, fine weeds starting, and by going through them now, with fork and spade, and scratching the ground over, these are killed, and the hard crust that has formed about the plants, loosened up. You will notice how fast the men walk over them now—wait two weeks from this time before hoeing them, and you would see the men down on their knees, moving like snails. In our long experience in strawberry culture we have found nothing so necessary, and that pays so well, as early hoeing of new-set beds."—*Fruit Recorder*.

How to Obtain Very Early Strawberries.

By the way, that little experiment of our's last spring, has proved a success for obtaining a few berries for our table use, three or four days in advance of our other plants. We prepared two cheap "cold frames," by making a frame with eight inch boards, slanting edgewise. Bed six feet wide, and about twenty feet long. Plant Metcalf, Nicamor and Wilson; set only six inches apart in the rows, and rows one foot apart, all runners kept off. Bed in a protected place on a south decline, which, with the protection of a board frame, has given us fruit this year, three or four days in advance of our earliest old plantation, where we have always picked the first fruit. We shall keep these same vines standing, cutting off all runners, and from being old plants another spring, shall gain two or three days in earliness, in comparison to out-door plantations. Our advice to our readers is, to fill 50 to 100 small fruit baskets or boxes, or earthen pots, with rich earth, and place in your strawberry plantation, training over them the runners, and "catch" the first plants that set. Those transferred to such a bed, will give you early fruit next season, especially if the frames are covered in cold, stormy weather in the spring, with ash. In fact, we are convinced that strawberries can be grown thus near many markets, very successfully, and at remunerative rates.—*Fruit Recorder*.

When to Make Cuttings.

There is nothing like getting out cuttings early. There are two plantations—containing fully one hundred thousand currant and gooseberry cuttings, and fully nine-tenths are growing. However, it is not all early setting, but by preparing the cuttings last fall, and trenching them in, so that all of them got well calloused over.

It is almost useless—time thrown away, to set cuttings late, and from late spring cuttings. Last spring we had a quantity of grape cuttings brought to us late, by a friend, and we did not succeed in growing one in ten—not enough to pay for our labor—let alone what we allowed him for the cuttings.—*Fruit Recorder*.

CHEAP PROTECTION FOR VINES.—Take an old cheese box, take out the bottom, remove the hoop from the cover, and get some mosquito netting and place over the box, and the hoop will hold the netting in its place.

THE KITTATINNEY BLACKBERRY.—A fruit-gardener in Illinois says: "Were I going to set out blackberries, I should prefer the Kittatinney to any variety I have yet seen, for hardness, flavor and productiveness, and for a market berry, I believe it has no equal. A. M. Purdy, of Palmyra, N. Y., an extensive grower of small fruits for market, says he has tried from ten to twelve sorts and has yet to find one that gives better satisfaction than the Kittatinney, all things considered."

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

An Easy Way to Raise Early Cucumbers.

Cucumbers for early use may be forced in hot-beds. For this purpose the beds need not be started until the middle of March, for when the young vines are above ground they will require an abundance of air daily, which cannot always be given, if started earlier in the season, on account of cold weather. There have been many attempts made among commercial gardeners around New York, who have vegetable forcing houses, to start cucumbers as early as January, in these houses; but every such attempt has, so far, proved unsuccessful. But when the forcing beds are started as late as the middle of March, it is quite as easy to raise a crop of cucumbers as it is a lot of egg or tomato plants. To save trouble in watering the beds, more soil may be used than is needed for raising plants. When the bed is ready for planting; two "hills" may be planted under each sash, putting six seeds in each hill of the "White Spine," one of the best varieties either for forcing or garden culture. When the young plants are an inch or two above ground they should be thinned out, leaving only three in one and two vines in the other, or two in each, in case the plants are strong. At this stage of growth the important point is to give air freely every day, without checking the growth until the second week in April. Straw mats should be put over the sashes at night to protect against frost. When the vines begin to "run," pinching off the end of each at

the third joint will encourage a more stocky growth, and if pinched a second time at the fifth joint the vine will not only be stronger, but the cucumber will be borne nearer the hill. Whenever the surface soil in the bed becomes dry, then tepid water should be given in quantity enough to moisten the soil, but not enough to saturate the bed. These few general directions, if followed, will put one on the right path to raise cucumbers under glass. Those who enjoy cucumbers and cannot afford the time or expense of forcing them, can by a little trouble, have cucumbers fit for table use at least a month earlier in the garden than when grown in the ordinary way. For this purpose a single sash and frame, with or without bottom heat, in which to sow the seed will be all-sufficient. Shallow drills one inch deep should be made, and the seed of the Early Spine, sowed thinly, and then covered, pressing the soil down firmly over the seed. This may be done the last week in March and by the time the weather is settled and the ground warm enough in the open ground to plant cucumbers, the plants in the frame will be two or three inches high, with the first red leaf well developed. These young plants may then be lifted without disturbing the roots and transplanted into the open ground without checking their growth in the least. By following this simple plan there is no danger to be apprehended from the striped bug, for the plants are already far enough advanced to be proof against such attacks. In the space of a single sash, 3x6, enough of plants can be started in this way to plant 75 hills—twice the number usually planted for family use at any one time.—P. T. Quinn, Essex County, N. J., in *Tribune*.

Celery.

Our manner of treating the celery crop of late years is very much simplified. Instead of sowing the seed in a hot-bed or cold frame, as formerly, it is sown in the open ground as soon as it is fit to work in April, and kept carefully clear of weeds until the time of planting in June and July. The tops are shorn off once or twice before planting, so as to insure "stocky" plants, which suffer less on being transplanted.

After the ground has been nicely prepared, lines are struck out on the level surface, three feet apart and the plants set six inches apart in rows. If the weather is dry at the time of planting, great care should be taken that the roots are properly "firmed." Our custom is, to turn back on the row, and press by the side of each plant gently with the foot. This compacts the soil, and partially excludes the air from the root until new rootlets are formed, which will usually be in forty-eight hours, after which all danger is over. This practice of pressing the soil closely around the roots is essential in planting of all kinds, and millions of plants are annually destroyed by its omission. After the planting of the Celery is completed, nothing further is to be done for six or seven weeks, except running through between the rows with the cultivator or hoe, and freeing the plants of weeds until they get strong enough to crowd them down. This will bring us to about the middle of August, by which time we have usually that moist and cold atmosphere essential to the growth of celery. Then we begin the "earthing up," necessary for blanching and whitening that which is wanted for use during the months of September, October and November. The first operation is that of "hand-lining," as we term it, that is, after the soil has been drawn up against the plant with the hoe, it is further drawn close around each plant by the hand, firm enough to keep the leaves in an upright position, and prevent them from spreading. This being done, more soil is drawn against the row (either by the plow or hoe, as circumstances require), so as to keep the plant in this upright position. The blanching process must, however, be finished by the spade, which is done by digging the soil from between the rows, and banking it up clear to the top on each side of the row of celery. Three feet is ample distance between the dwarf varieties, but when larger sorts are used, the width of the rows must be at least four and a half or five feet.—*Henderson's Catalogue*.

ONION MAGGOT.—An onion-grower, of considerable experience, says that he destroys the onion maggot in the following manner:—As soon as the maggots are discovered at work, remove the soil from the sides of the bulbs, by making a shallow trench with the corner of a hoe; then pour into this trench soap-suds made by dissolving two or three gallons of soft soap in a barrel of water, previously adding one pound of copperas in the soap.—*Rural New Yorker*.