

## HOW I GOT STARTED IN SMALL FRUIT.

WHEN I first thought of engaging in fruit culture as an occupation for recreation as well as revenue, I decided that the small fruits were what I should first plant, that I might receive some income as quickly as possible, as they were quicker to come into bearing than the stone fruits.

I wished to learn all I possibly could concerning the methods of fruit growing, and I knew that the surest and most effective way was to begin at the bottom and work up. So I purchased a few plants of most of the small fruits and began propagating the plants.

The way I got started in currants and gooseberries was to purchase a few hundred two-year-old bushes of the most reliable varieties of a responsible nurseryman and set them in November, before the ground became frozen.

The soil where I set them was made as rich as possible with rotten barnyard manure. The ground was plowed deep and fined well. The plants were set six feet each way that I could cultivate both ways with a horse; the plants were kept clean all summer, and by fall I had a fine growth of new wood.

In the last of September I took what cuttings there were on the five hundred bushes and found I had nearly 3000 of them. These I heeled in, with tops down, for a few days that the cuts might callus.

The ground where I was to set my cuttings was prepared similar to the way

I prepared the ground the fall before, and made richer, if such a thing was possible, the ground was furrowed out into rows three feet apart and 7 or 8 inches deep. I stuck the cuttings along the rows at an angle of about 45 degrees and six inches apart, leaving about an inch or two to protrude above ground when the trenches were filled. The soil was tramped down solid about the shoots and left mounded up slightly that no water would stand about them.

When freezing weather came, I covered the ground with rotted manure, to protect the cuttings from heaving. As soon as spring came I started the cultivator and did not allow a weed to live the whole summer, and by fall I had a fine lot of year-old plants. These would have cost me over \$50, had I purchased them from a nursery, while as it was, they cost me less than \$10.

With the other small fruits, I did the same, buy a few, and from them propagate my own plants. The knowledge I have learned while performing this work, has more than compensated me for the extra time it took to grow the plants into bearing. I can say that I did not go at it entirely ignorant of the best methods, for I first spent considerable money for books and journals which treated fully upon this occupation, and am still reading all I can get hold of which will give me any new ideas.

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