

Another important thing to attend to before shipping season is to have your markets all looked up. If possible, make an arrangement with some good dealers to buy from you direct, and thus save a percentage paid the commission man. The nearer home you can find a market for the small fruits, the better; distant transportation is both expensive and injurious to the soft fruits.

Too much care cannot be exercised in the gathering and putting up of the fruit. Strawberries and raspberries should be gone over and gathered at least every other day. The way I manage my crop is to go over one-half of it only in one day, and the other half the following day, keeping this up through the season, and have every berry gathered that is in a fit condition, for, if only a few are left which are ripe, by the time of the next picking they will be too soft, and if then gathered by the pickers (which they are apt to be) and put in the basket with the other berries, they not only mash themselves, but injure the appearance of the whole. Never allow any over-ripe, inferior or dirty berries to be put in the basket, for they will do you far more injury in the end, than present profit.

Let every basket of fruit be well assorted, clean and bright; then there is little danger but they will meet with ready sale, even though the market may be full of dirty, inferior fruit. There is no doubt but that in a short time berries will be grown so plentifully that there will be danger of a glut in the market at times. To avoid this the growers must send in their fruit regularly every day, and keep up the supply of fresh fruit. Even though it be rainy weather, the fruit should be gathered just the same, and marketed in order to supply the daily demand, and keep the ripened fruit well cleared from the vines. All the small or injured berries that are ripe, though not fit for market, should be gathered. A good plan is to use one or two of the quart baskets, which are carried in the field basket, for over-ripe or inferior fruit. These can often be made use of in some way after being assorted, although they would not stand shipping.

The grower of small fruits must bear in mind that the essentials are to have the fruit fresh and clean, and looking as attractive as possible; the packages, neat, convenient and tasty, thus creating a larger demand in the market with more profit, even though all the inferior fruit is thrown away. By keeping this fact in view, the grower need have no fear of a glutted market or a fair profit.

Moved by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. J. J. Wilson, Resolved, "That the sum of \$400 be appropriated toward expenses of making exhibits of fruits, etc., at eastern and other fairs, such sum to be at the disposal of a committee to be named by the President."

Moved by Mr. Hutcherson, seconded by Mr. Thrift, Resolved, "That the next meeting of Directors be held at Nanaimo, on Tuesday, August 1st, at 7 o'clock p.m."