

Fruit Raising in Manitoba

BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY

A person need not go away to the far west coast to go into the fruit-raising industry for it can be carried on with great success and profit right here in Manitoba where the demand is unfailing and the prices high. An

No trouble was experienced from worms but each summer the trees were thoroughly sprayed with a solution of helibore and water. The crop was very regular, and there were no failures on account of frost

in the spring. Each year the six rows of trees yielded from 150 to 200 pails of choice berries, which sold readily at \$2 per pail.

The work of picking was pleasant and Mr. Parkinson generally employed boys or women. The berries were easily reached and the work of picking was carried on very fast. At busy times six or seven pickers were often employed, who picked the berries in a very short time.

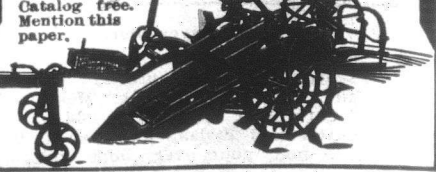
The demand in Portage alone was

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RASPBERRY RAISING IN MANITOBA.

instance of a successful fruit garden may be seen about two miles north of Portage la Prairie on the farm well known locally as the "Parkinson Estate." Here William Parkinson has a splendid fruit garden, about two acres in extent, devoted to the raising of raspberries, currants and plums.

In conversation with Mr. Parkinson, he gave many facts that he had gained in his ten years' experience. Originally from England, with a taste for gardening, and being a live business man, Mr. Parkinson saw the great profit to be made in raising fruit and so he set out a large patch of the common red raspberries and later added white, red and black currant trees, wild plum and apple trees.

As to the growing of the raspberry trees, Mr. Parkinson stated that any farmer could easily make a success of it, if they were at all particular. He planted the trees in rows, about eight feet apart, and as they grew large were trimmed to a uniform height of four feet. When the trees were small he planted alternate rows of potatoes, so that he was getting double value from the land, but, as the trees grew larger, he felt that they required all the nourishment in the soil and gave them every chance. The ground was thoroughly cultivated between the rows each year by harrowing and kept free from weeds. As a cultivator, Mr. Parkinson generally urged a section of a harrow, but of late years a patented cultivator called the "Acme" has been on the market, which does the work well. It was not found necessary to use any fertilizer or manure on the land, which was of the ordinary clay loam. The most essential thing is to keep the soil well cultivated and free from weeds.

In the fall, Mr. Parkinson always endeavored to get all the dead canes cut out, so that they would not catch the snow and consequently break the trees.

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