

FRUIT-GROWING ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

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IF I were choosing an orchard site, either large or small, I would look for land slightly elevated above the surrounding land, and sloping away from the prevailing winds during the time the fruit is on the trees. No attention need be paid about the east, west, north or south theory. A side hill with natural drainage is preferable, with good, deep soil, which should be either sandy or gravelly. A clay subsoil, or at least a fairly stiff subsoil, is necessary, and land which would yield a good crop of potatoes, or corn, will, with the other requirements noted above, make excellent orchard land. Practically all Island soils require tiling or other artificial drainage for tree fruits, because of the winter rains.

Wet land is fatal to fruit culture, or even land which is kept too moist with irrigation, or natural rainfall; although such wet land may be successfully cultivated for blackberries and loganberries, which are heavy feeders and require a ample moisture. Yet even these berries require good drainage.

In my judgment a man should have not less than ten acres of land on which to carry on fruit-growing, with two acres additional for house, outhouses, garden etc. Twenty acres would be better, but ten acres can be taken as the minimum.