

HORTICULTURE

The Prospects for Fruit

The following reports from crop correspondents indicate the present condition of fruit trees and bushes, and the prospects:

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Long River.—All varieties promise well. Plum trees have been damaged in some places. There is quite a lot of dead wood to be noticed. All wild fruits promise an abundant crop.—John Johnson.

NOVA SCOTIA

Paradise.—Prospects for apples are good; the bloom was abundant. Gravenstein particularly promise well. Spys and Baldwins are a little off in some localities. Foliage is healthy. The trees wintered well.—B. Starratt.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Oromocto.—Apple trees blossomed abundantly, and seem free from insect pests. Small fruits promise well.—Henry Wilmut.

QUEBEC

Massachusetts.—All small fruits give promise of an abundant harvest. Plums and cherries are above the average. About two-thirds of the apple trees were killed by the blight of two winters ago. The trees that are uninjured, are loaded.—G. P. Hutchcock.

Chateauguay Basin.—On the whole indications point to a good crop. Apples, plums and cherries have so well; also all small fruits, but if we do not have rain soon it will go hard with some of them, particularly strawberries. Plum curculio is doing considerable damage in this locality. Outside of this pest, prospects could not be better.—N. E. Jack.

ONTARIO

Grimby.—Strawberry plants show the effects of the drought. Raspberries are looking well. Cherries are light. Late varieties of peaches are good, but Crawfords are light. Curl leaf is had in places. Lombard plums are light. Curculio is doing a lot of harm. Pears promise well; also grapes. In apples, Baldwins are very shy in blossom.—H. L. Roberts.

Niagara Falls South.—Small fruits are good, but beginning to show signs of dry weather. Apple prospects are splendid, excepting Spys. Grapes are looking good. Pears will be a very heavy crop. Peaches, with the exception of several varieties, are

a good crop. Plums are good; also quinces.—Thos. Stokes.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Kamloops.—The cold spring and early summer have retarded the growth of all crops, but present indications point to heavy yields of fruits of all kinds.—A. E. Neish.

Peasland.—In this dry climate the fruit generally sets heavily. We are now thinning our peach crop, which is likely to be a good one. Late varieties, however, are not so good. Apples, pears, plums, grapes and all small fruits, will be a good crop.—C. Aitkens.

Root Pruning for Fruit

Edward Lane, Waterloo County, Ont.

If a tree is making too much wood growth, and is not bearing what might be considered a fair crop, it should be deprived of a few of its roots. In order to illustrate the value of this, I will give one of my experiences along that line. A few years ago, I received, as a premium with The Canadian Horticulturist, a Wealthy apple tree and, if my memory serves me right, it was of one year's growth and about 12 or 15 inches high, branched out as a dwarf and so I let it remain. It grew to be eight feet high and six feet in width and with no sign of fruit. I said to it one day, "You have got to stop this. I don't want so much wood; I want fruit." I dug a hole about 30 inches from the trunk and then tunnelled in under it and there I found four large roots. I cut these off and put the soil back again. The next year, I had to prune up every branch but one on the opposite side where I dug the hole and in the fall, I had about three bushels of splendid apples.

My boys found them were good to eat and as a consequence the branch nearest the wall was stripped of its load quite a while before the rest. The next year, the branch which did not require to be pruned and the one which the boys stripped, had to be pruned. Altogether, the tree bore about one and one-half bushels and the third year it bore about two bushels. They were as good a sample as one could wish to pick up. This instance is not a solitary one but one of scores, and always with about the same results. To my knowledge, it has been practised through three generations, I myself having been taught it over 40 years ago by my grandfather, who was a nurseryman and knew whereof he spoke.

Planting Celery

R. J. Bushell, Frontenac County, Ont.

I do not trench my celery, but plant on the level in rows three feet apart, and plants six inches apart in the rows. Two hours before removing the plants from the bed, I water freely and remove the plants with a good ball of earth to each root. I press this firmly in my hand. By so doing, plants receive but very little set-back.

I start to set my plants out in the field about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and continue till dark, which gives the plants a chance to take hold during the night, and they are better able to resist the sun of the following day. If the weather is dry I water before and after planting, and do so every three days till the plants are well under way.

When the plants are about a foot high, I give a light cultivating. After which I remove all the weeds between them, and continue cultivating every fortnight until the plants are high enough for bleaching (which should be about the latter part of July) for which I use boards from 12 to 15 inches high. The crop should be ready for market about the middle of August.

Fertilizers for Orchards

S. C. Parker, King's County, N.S.

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