

YIELDS AND PROFITS OF THE BLACKBERRY.



THE year following the planting, there should be a sufficient yield to pay for the cost of the plantation to that time. The third year, the crop should be large, and from that time on, the yield should be nearly uniform, when the seasons are good. I do not know the limit to the profitable age of blackberry plantations. It is certain that it should continue to bear heavily for twenty years if it has good care, and I am told by careful growers that a patch will last even longer than this. As the plants are generally grown, however, they cannot be expected to hold out this long, for the land becomes hard and foul, and the plants full of dead and diseased wood.

Blackberries are capable of yielding 200 bushels per acre, year by year, unless very unfavorable seasons intervene. This station once made an inquiry amongst fifty growers in various parts of the country as to the average yield of blackberries. The lowest return was 40 bushels, the highest over 300 bushels, and the average of the whole fifty was 98 bushels per acre. The prices in this State range from seven to fifteen cents a quart. J. M. Mersereau, of Cayuga, one of our best blackberry growers, recently said to me: "Let me choose the soil, and I will guarantee to clear \$200 per acre on blackberries." In our own experience at Ithaca, blackberries have sold the most readily of any of the bush fruits, at prices ranging from eight to fifteen cents per quart. Granville, Cowing, Muncie, Indiana, a most successful grower of this fruit, makes me the following statements respecting the profits of it: "The blackberry is probably the most profitable of the small fruits. Owing to its firmness it can be kept much longer in good condition than the strawberry or raspberry, and often brings better prices. The best varieties are enormously productive, their cultivation comparatively easy, and a well kept plantation of them should last a life time." Whilst all these figures and statements are tempting, it must, nevertheless, be said that the blackberry, like all other fruits, yields the golden harvest only to those who work for it, and who think whilst they work.—Cornell B. 99.

Chestnuts.—The American chestnut has the sweetest kernels, but are smaller, and the trees must be some fifteen or more years from the seed before they bear. The European, or Spanish chestnut, has nuts nearly double the size of the American, but are tamer in flavor. But the seed will bear at about ten years from the seed. The dwarf Chinquepin Chestnut will often bear the second or third year from seed, but the nuts are so small, that they are not in general use. The Japan chestnut, is a comparative dwarf, though a stronger grower than the American Chinquepin,—but the nuts are as large as the European chestnut, with about the same taste. Like the Chinquepin, they bear early. But all the kinds bear early when grafted from bearing trees.—Meehans' Monthly.