

GOOSEBERRIES.

WITH reference to question 955, by Mr. D. J. Stewart, of Ailken's Ferry, P. E. I., I make the following observations: In England, of red gooseberries, the Industry takes the lead, being not only of fine flavor, but also very productive. Crown Bob, Ashton Red, and Lancashire Lad also stand high. Red Champagne is smaller, but of fine flavor; it has not yet mildewed with me. Sulphur is a good yellow, of fair size, and mildews a little with me. Lewis's Amber is a larger yellow, of fine flavor, and mildews but slightly; generally not at all. Whitesmith is very productive; I have seen fully eight quarts on a tree, of an agreeable mild flavor, but mildewed somewhat some years, other years it will be quite free. White Eagle is a larger berry than Whitesmith, much less subject to mildew, in fact I have not yet seen mildew upon it; of good pronounced flavor, productive, and a more vigorous grower than Industry. At present I think more of this variety than of any other English kind. When in a good rich soil, the berries grow surprisingly large; sometimes they are pyriform or pear-shaped, and at other times nearly perfect ovals. Of the English hairy green sweet berries, Glenton Green is very good; I have not seen any mildew on it. It is not a large berry, and about the size of Downing. Crown Bob, Ashton Red (Red Warrington), Industry and Lancashire Lad have all mildewed badly with me this year. There are some American varieties, such as Chautauqua, Columbus and Triumph, which have all mildewed badly with me this year, but last year they did not. These appear to me to

be only seedlings of Whitesmith, and resemble it closely.

With regard to mildew, I have tried everything to cure it, and I come to the conclusion that it cannot be cured when once it has begun. Sometimes it only slightly affects the tips of the young shoots, but frequently the berries also. I tried liver of sulphur, sulphate of copper, kerosene emulsion, digging flower of sulphur in round the bush, fertilizing freely with ashes, watering the bush well in dry weather, and all to no purpose. I have cleaned the infested berries with a weak soap and kerosene wash, and the disease formed again on the berries. But I have not tried spraying the bush *before* coming into leaf. Perhaps this might prevent it.

I have my bushes on two or three classes of soil; clay loam and light clay loam, on my own farm; and a sort of sandy, or gravelly loam, on the place where I live. On this latter soil, the mildew is far worse than on the clay loam. In Halton county, at Milton, where I was six years, the soil was a good stiff clay loam, on a clay subsoil. I did not see any mildew there; and in Judge Miller's garden, there were several kinds of the best English gooseberries, which did well with him. Evidently, Prince Edward Island would be the place for gooseberries, if there be a suitable stiff soil there; but the "light sandy soil" is not the thing, either for gooseberries or raspberries. But in England they have good gooseberries, on all sorts of soils, the sea-air being the main desideratum.

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