

the season of 1890, from which he had cleared \$15.55, and similar crops at other times had been harvested. The fruit this season is of a fine size and well colored, a special feature being the absence of scab which so destroys the Flemish Beauty in some sections.

The people of the Beaver Valley are alive to their own interests, and have vigorously enforced the black knot by-law during the last seven years, and this forethought has been worth thousands of dollars in this valley.

THE FALL CARE OF BERRY PLANTS.



INTER protection is an absolute necessity for growing small fruit successfully in a Northern climate. It should be practiced in every locality where the temperature reaches zero or below. With the high cultivation now practiced, a large and tender growth is stimulated, hence the greater necessity for maintaining as uniform a temperature as possible throughout the winter. Even in localities where plants show no injury, and among those considered most hardy, the quality is often affected and the succeeding crop very much reduced. The best winter protection for blackberries, raspberries and grapes consists in laying them down and covering lightly with dirt. All old canes and weak new growth should be cut out and burned soon after fruiting, leaving only strong, vigorous plants.

If plants have been well mulched in the summer with green clover, clean straw or coarse manure, as they should be, less dirt is required by using this mulching. In laying plants down (the rows running north and south) begin at the north end, remove the dirt from the north side of the hill about 4 in. deep; gather the branches in close form with a wide fork, raising it toward the top of the bush and press gently to the north, at the same time placing the foot firmly on the base of the hill and press hard toward the north. If the ground is hard or bushes old, a second man may use a potato fork instead of the foot, inserting the same deeply, close to the south side of the hill, and press over slowly, bending the bush in the root until nearly flat on the ground. The bush is then held down with a wide fork until properly covered.

The top of the succeeding hill should rest near the base of the preceding hill, thus making a continuous covering. This process is an important one, but easily acquired with a little practice. In the spring remove the dirt carefully with a fork and slowly raise the bush. With hardy varieties and in mild winters, sufficient protection may be had by laying down and covering the tips only. Grapes, being more flexible, are laid down without the removal of the dirt near the vine. There is no more important work on the fruit farm or garden than winter protection and there is no work more generally neglected. Let it be done thoroughly after frosts have come and before winter sets in.—M. A. THAYER, in *Farm and Home*.