

RASPBERRY CULTURE.

age is grown. If the canes were cut back in spring at a height of say four feet, it would leave very little wood for fruit production, as there is but one fruit-bearing stem produced from each bud. Fig. 1303 illustrates our method of pruning. The new canes are cut back at the height of two and one-half feet some time during the month of June. This causes them to become strong and stocky and throw out a lateral branch from each bud on the main canes. These branches sometimes grow to the great length of ten or twelve feet. The following March or April, after severe freezing weather if past, we clip these with a hedge shears to eighteen or twenty inches in length. This leaves an abundance of wood for fruit production and gives the bushes a nice circular form about three and one-half feet in diameter, thus affording every facility for cultivation and gathering the fruit.

As soon as the soil is in a fit condition for working, the ridges should be cultivated back to a level again and shallow cultivation should be continued until just before the fruit begins to ripen. As soon as the fruit has been harvested, the old wood should be cut out, removed and burned. By using a V. shaped steel hook for cutting out the old wood, a horse attached to a wooden rake for gathering it into bunches, and a sled for hauling it away, this work is much simplified. When this has been accomplished, the ridging up should again be done. Doubtless many who are present have attempted to grow raspberries, and have noticed the bushes become sickly after a few years and soon die out altogether. This is usually caused by a fungous disease known as anthracnose. It is contagious, is carried in the air, and is most prevalent during a wet season, Fig. 1304 in the charts illus-



FIG. 1304. reddish spots, sometimes containing a light centre as shown in Fig. 1305.

These spots quickly enlarge and cover the whole surface of the leaves, when they dry and curl up, giving the entire patch the appearance of having had a fire pass over it. When the foliage of a few bushes in a plantation become affected, it rapidly extends itself to others, and in this way will run over several acres in the course of five or six days. In some cases, the bearing canes entirely dry up, while in others, where they still retain sufficient vitality to ripen the fruit, it is much diminished in size and is dry and

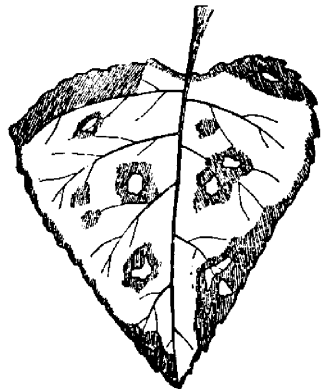


FIG. 1305.