

sub-division of the eyes, with pieces of the tuber of the size perhaps of a pea, and only one of these pieces to each hill. And what has been the result? Instead of failure, both in size and quantity, as most would at first suppose, judging from the impression that the parent tuber is necessary to the early sustenance of the young plant, the result has been a perfect success both in size and quantity. Numerous instances might be cited, in which, from so dividing a single tuber of only good fair size, the yield was a bushel and over. Now, who supposed that by taking the same potato, sub-dividing it, and planting both pieces in one hill, anything like such a yield could be exhibited? Thus we see how the force of circumstances will sometimes produce results that are of themselves exceedingly valuable. And as stated above, the practice of a few years has placed an entirely new phase upon the belief and practice of farmers as regards the quantity of seed to be used in the planting of potatoes; and the practice now is to scatter the seed more—that is, sub-divide the potato much more, and place one piece for a hill, and the hills much nearer together. In this practice it has been found that, while perhaps the number of tubers is considerably less in a hill than by the old method, they are much more uniform in size, and from the increased number of hills the aggregate yield upon an acre is considerably increased, which is a matter of consequence in the cultivation of the crop. It still remains an unsettled question regarding the influence of the size of the potato that is used for seed upon the product of the crop; and still the use of seed with so small a portion of the original tuber as has been explained, which resulted in what might be termed perfect success, would induce the belief that size has but little governing influence in the matter, unless it were that from there being the same number of eyes upon a small potato that there are upon a large one, the seed is more concentrated, and hence as a natural consequence the potatoes produced being more crowded, would not grow to the proportions that they otherwise would, and therefore the small seed would be accredited the yield of small potatoes, when in fact it should be to the mode of planting.

W. H. YEOMANS.

Columbia, Conn., July 24, 1871.

The Davison's Thornless Black Cap Raspberry.

Three years ago I was persuaded to try Davison's Thornless Black Cap. My object is not to find fruit for profit, but for enjoyment, and, possibly, profit afterward—fruits that will contribute to make a rural home delightful.

I have tested scores of all kinds of berries, and generally found it necessary to discard them, but Davison's Thornless Raspberry I put down as about every way a good satisfactory home fruit.

In the first place it is hardy—as hardy as a Black Cap that meets the sharp frost with sharper thorns. It is a superb grower. For growth of canes, on my soil, it surpasses all other varieties.

The canes in size and strength were maximum. But what has all this to do with the fact that any one can crowd through, and under, and handle the bushes without one serious scratch. There are small thorns at the jointure of the leaflets, but they are only imitation. A lady's dress is safe, and the gatherer's hands are safe. Just contrast your experience with any of the thorny varieties—clothes torn, hands bleeding, and temper worse off than either clothes or hands. You are caught and twitched at every move. No sooner has one plague let go with a piece of your skin, than another takes you by the coat tail; till you feel fairly whipped and afraid to enter. All well enough when urchins are hired to do the picking, and you never see a berry till they sit beside the cream bowl. But I want a berry that I can visit at its home, and eat out of hand, and not have to run for my life, as if I were a thief, for touching it.

I set the Davison about twice as closely as any thorny variety, and then mulch the whole surface of the soil with a thick covering of long manure and sawdust. Raspberries naturally crowd together, and in their native condition shade their own roots. Of course thorny varieties must be set far enough apart to allow of free passage. The Thornless can be allowed to stand in hills far enough apart one way for the pickers, and far enough the other way to work between with a hoe. Of course I speak now of patches cultivated for home use, and not of large fields, where the object is the market. Alongside of Leaning's White Strawberry, therefore, set down Davison's Thornless Black Cap as a fruit for our country homes.

—E. H. Powell, in *Horticulturist*.

How to Pack Grapes for Market.

When the grapes are fully ripe the bunches should be cut from the vines with a pair of hand-shears, always taking hold of the stem when moving the bunch. This precaution is necessary, so that the "bloom" may not be rubbed off by handling the berries. The grapes are then carried from the vineyard to a cellar or packing house. All green berries should be removed from the bunches before packing. This can be rapidly done by holding up each bundle by the stem and cutting out the unripe berries with a pair of long-pointed shears. Grapes bring higher prices in New York market when packed in small boxes, holding not more than five pounds each. These boxes are now manufactured extensively in grape-growing districts, and at very low prices, by the quantity. They are made of either very thin slips of wood, or stiff pasteboard. When ready to pack, the

bunches should be carefully placed in the boxes, one bunch at a time. The box should be shaken a few times while being packed, so that the fruit will settle firmly and not be displaced by the jarring of railroads, or rough handling on the way to market. When the cover is removed from a box of grapes that has been well packed, the stems of the bunches are not visible, and the berries of the top layer should be level with the side pieces of the box. Eight, ten or a dozen of these small boxes may then be encased in a strong, but roughly constructed crate, similar to those used by Southern "truckers" in forwarding vegetables and peaches to Northern markets. The consignee should be notified by mail of each shipment, stating clearly, but briefly, the quantity and quality of the fruit shipped.

The bunches of grapes should be assorted at the time of gathering. Small or straggling bunches should not be packed in the same box with well formed shouldered bunches. Each kind will bring more when packed separately. The class of buyers who are willing to pay high prices for large and well formed bunches will not buy poor bunches at any price.

Carelessly gathered and badly packed grapes, sent from a distance to New York, or other Northern markets, arrive in a damaged condition, and are sold at a low price, if at all; and this has heretofore been the case with much of this fruit shipped from the South. There must be a reform in this matter, or grape growing for the market will not pay.—*Rural Carolinian*.

Strawberries - Comparative Productiveness.

During a recent visit to the grounds of H. E. Hooker, of Rochester, who is well known as one of the most intelligent and successful cultivators of fruit at that place, he gave us the following list of strawberries, which he preferred for family supply:—Large Early Scarlet, Wilson, Triomphe de Gand, and Russell's Prolific. The Early Scarlet is valuable for its earliness, good quality and reliability. Taking the Wilson as the standard of productiveness, the Scarlet bears about one-fourth as much. Triomphe de Gand varies from one-fourth to one-half the crop of the Wilson, and the Russell, if well fertilized, about one-half, but sometimes about three-fourths as much. Green Prolific, although not of very high quality and too soft for market, is valuable for its great productiveness, being nearly or quite equal in this respect to the Wilson, and many would therefore find it valuable as a berry for family supply. Jucunda is somewhat uncertain in its crop, but comes nearly up to Triomphe de Gand in productiveness.—*Country Gentleman*.