

SOME NOTES ON BERRY GROWING.



RED raspberries are about as profitable as any that can be raised. As a rule they sell higher even than strawberries, and when properly treated will yield a splendid crop. Mine I suppose are the Cuthbert variety, although they were transplanted from an old garden, and I never knew positively what the variety was. They are as large as the end of one's middle finger, and very dark red when ripe. In fact, they should never be picked until they reach that color, as they are dry until that time. But when ripe they are sweet and delicious, with the true raspberry flavor. They are also quite firm, and will bear transportation well. My method of growing is to plant in hills four feet apart each way. We leave from five to seven canes to grow each year, cutting out all the rest, as well as all the suckers that come up in the early part of the season. After the crop has been gathered, we cut out all the old canes in order to give the new ones a better chance for the rest of the season. The new are cut down to about one-third their length late in the fall, and then bent over and covered with straw and earth to protect from frost. We uncover them early in the spring and tie the canes up to stakes, of which we use only one for each hill. We give them the same dose of liquid manure that is given the strawberries. It is very little trouble to keep the soil between the rows free from weeds and cut out the many suckers that appear. If the canes are not very vigorous, we leave six or seven in a hill, but generally five canes are enough to secure the best results.

I am satisfied that a moderate amount of shade is beneficial to red raspberries. The general theory is that no kind of plant will grow as well, or produce as well, when it stands near to trees, which are supposed to absorb nearly all the nutriment there is in the soil, leaving very little for any other plants. But when raspberries are treated in the way I have described, the shade of trees seems to give them extra vigor, the berries grow larger as well as the canes, and the yield is very much larger. In order to test the matter, I selected eight hills growing together in the shade, and eight growing in the open sunlight. For eight pickings I counted the berries from these sixteen hills, in all of which the canes had been treated in precisely the same manner. From the eight hills growing in part shade we gathered 3,167 berries; from the eight growing in open sunlight only 2,123 berries. Here was a difference of one-third in the number of berries alone, which was still farther increased by the size of the berries, those in shade being about one-third larger than those in sun. The eight best hills averaged nearly 400 berries each, from these eight pickings, and according to count, it took 200 of the berries to make a quart. There was a good deal of difference even among these, but six hills which were most in the shade gave respectively 351, 366, 422, 573, 483 and 414 berries. Taking the season of picking right through, these hills and others like them yielded from