

GOOSEBERRY CULTURE.



THE most important thing connected with gooseberry culture is judicious pruning. This work, which cannot be neglected, is done from late autumn to early winter. Many of the vigorous-growing shoots and branches are annually removed, and only a moderate supply of young growing wood is left. The bush is made to assume a cup-shaped top, with slightly drooping branches. The cultivation and manuring are like that just described for the currant. As far as I have learned, the varieties of gooseberry in cultivation in Great Britain are far more numerous than the varieties of any other small fruit, and the choice of variety appears to depend to a large degree upon locality. For picking green or for preserving when ripe, the Whitesmith, Early Sulphur, and Warrington, appear to be general favorites. Crown Bob, well known in many American gardens, is also a much prized sort, and its large, finely-colored fruit sells well in the market. Other varieties largely grown are Red Rifleman, Golden Drop, Monarch and Lancashire Lad. I believe that Lancashire, one of the northern counties of England, is quite famous for its gooseberries, and usually succeeds in capturing a large number of the prizes offered for this fruit at horticultural exhibitions. Many new varieties were originated in this county, and the names with which they have been heralded to the world are not unlike those used by our own originators. Among some of the best known I find the following: Roaring Lion, Leveller, Napoleon, Red Champagne, etc. Whinham's Industry is also highly regarded, and is thought to be one of the leading sorts.

I can speak less confidently of the yield of an average crop of gooseberries than I could of that of currants. The greater number of varieties in cultivation, and the fact that more skill is required in pruning, are among the reasons why the "average" crop is variable. Good growers are not satisfied with anything less than a crop of 7,000 pounds an acre. The price received for gooseberries varies greatly. Early fruit of choice varieties, raised in sheltered localities, often brings from 15 to 18 cents a pound. But this is exceptional. Under ordinary circumstances, the price received for the first few pickings is 6 or 8 cents a pound. It soon falls, however, a fair average price for the whole crop would be three or four cents a pound.

Gooseberries are bought very largely for canning and preserving, as well as for immediate use as a dessert fruit, or for puddings, tarts, etc. I judge that the expense of raising gooseberries is about the same as that of raising currants—perhaps a little more. It can scarcely fall below \$100 an acre.

Both the currant and gooseberry bushes, especially the latter, are subject to attacks from the currant worm or saw-fly (*Nematus*). In order to check the ravages of this insect, quick lime, lime ashes, or soot, is scattered close around the bushes late in autumn, and dug into the soil. This is said by many to be