

the trees averaged six quarts to the bush, while the other one which is in the sun averaged three quarts.

English varieties are not propagated to any extent in this country, the main part of them being imported, as nurserymen find that they can do this cheaper. American varieties are usually grown by mound laying, which consists in throwing up the earth in June when the young shoots are a few inches long. They root in this and are left on the stools for a year when they are planted out in the nursery rows for another year. English varieties may be propagated in this way, but they are usually left on the stools for two years.

Cuttings six or eight inches long, taken in August or September, and stored as currant cuttings will succeed with American varieties and with English sorts in England but stronger plants are produced by the layering methods.

Gooseberries require the same cultivation as the currant. It is important that it should be shallow and frequent. Some people use a mulch system claiming that they can obtain good results and also prevent mildew to a large extent. Plantations thus treated have borne large crops for twenty years. The mulch which is usually straw should be at least six inches deep and may be thrown on

the bushes in the winter and placed in the spaces in the early spring. It conserves moisture, prevents weeds and keeps the fruit clean. Its chief advantage is the prevention of mildew but its use has largely disappeared on account of improved methods in spraying.

#### PRUNING

Gooseberries bear on two-year-old wood and canes should not be allowed to remain after they are five years old. The young bushes do not require much pruning for the first three years except to cut back about half the new growth each year. This encourages the development of fruit spurs all along the branch instead of having them situated mostly at the ends. Low branches and those which have been injured should be removed as well as superfluous new wood.

When pruning we have to keep in mind that the bearing canes or branches will not last forever, so young shoots should be saved to take their places. For English varieties leave five or six bearing branches and as many more young shoots. More branches may be left in an American variety on account of their smaller size.

The idea of thinning out the bush to admit sunlight is altogether wrong, as the crop may be severely injured by the hot rays of the sun.

required, no farm house or even village home with a small garden should be without an abundance of the most wholesome, delightful and fragrant of foods—the delicious strawberry and raspberry. They are far better than medicine, for with ripe fruit in the home sickness often becomes a stranger. The little toil required in setting out, caring for, and picking is repaid a hundred fold in health and happiness.

It is better to have the soil for strawberries rich with some good fertilizer, as barnyard manure. On poor soil the same amount of work is required, with only a quarter the crop.

If the ground has been cleaned by a summer fallow or some hoed crop, such as potatoes, it will save a good deal of labor. Weeds grow fast in strawberries. The ground must be well drained. Berry plants "cannot stand wet feet." A place well sheltered so that snow is likely to remain long on the ground is favorable.

For ordinary cultivation the plants are set out in rows four feet apart and eighteen inches apart in the row. Some place the rows as closely as three feet, and if they are kept narrow enough by trimming the ends of the runners the plan is good. But it is never wise to have the rows too wide or matted, as besides giving weak plants it interferes with the picking.

For a small patch dig small holes with a hoe, make a small cone shaped mound in the centre of each, and over this place the plants, letting the roots hang around the cone, but deep. Then cover and pack tightly. This enables the moisture to rise by capillary action. Lastly cover with a loose layer of earth. This keeps the moisture from escaping.

Avoid planting too deep, or too shallow. Large patches may be set out by using a spade, trowel or better a dibble. An opening is made, the plant inserted the proper depth, the roots shaken well out, and then the earth is pressed tightly against it with the hand or foot.

In the spring after the leaves are nicely started I go through and trim off the ends of the branches, cutting off a third or a quarter of the length, and removing dead wood. The remainder will do much better if this is done.

Directions given for the strawberry are also applicable for the raspberry. Land sloping gently to the north is favorable to the raspberry as the changes of temperature are not so sudden. This location also more nearly approaches the state of the wild strawberry. What is termed "winter-killing" is more properly spring killing.

Plants are generally set in rows six feet apart and three feet apart in the row. If the soil is good a row of carrots or other vegetable may be grown in the intervening spaces the first year.

## The Culture of Raspberries and Strawberries

Jos. Frappe, Stirling, Ont.

**T**O make a success of growing small fruits one should not do things simply because others do. There should be a good clear reason back of everything. The more thought and intelligent workmanship one puts into any work the more pleasant and agreeable it

becomes; and this is abundantly proved in the culture of berries. There is a pleasure in the great windrows of luscious fruits, the work is light and agreeable, and the profits to the painstaking are often large.

For the little care and work that are



A Well Sprayed Apple Orchard

In this orchard, owned by W. J. Owens, Duntroon, Ont., fifteen pounds of lime to the barrel was used. This gave the trees their white appearance and assisted in the making of a thorough job.