

Nova Scotia, while the apple crop of British Columbia promises large.

The pear crop promises a medium to full crop in most places. Failures are reported in a few sections. In British Columbia pears have set well and a good crop is in prospect.

The outlook for plums is very hopeful. In the commercial plum sections of Ontario the trees are heavily loaded and there is every indication of a full crop of American and European varieties. Plum rot is reported in British Columbia and to a less extent in the Niagara district. There is a promise of a fair crop in Prince Edward Island, though Black Knot is reported very destructive to plums there.

On the whole, cherries promise a fair crop in the Lake Erie district. In other parts of Ontario a medium to full crop is expected.

In British Columbia the crop will be shorter than last year, while in Nova Scotia a medium to full crop is reported.

Grapes are making good growth every where and with favorable weather and no September frosts a large crop is insured.

The late season has disarranged the small fruit trade considerably. Strawberries from southern Ontario, which usually have been on the market the first week of June, did not appear this year till near the end of the month. The crop in the different sections has therefore ripened about the same time and is being put on the market all at once, thus making the season very short. Then if the weather continues hot and dry all kinds of small fruit such as strawberries, raspberries, cherries and currants will ripen almost simultaneously and be on the market at the same time rather than in consecutive order as formerly.

Strawberries appear to be a smaller crop in the aggregate. The general outlook for raspberries is a light crop. Currants, especially red, are being planted in larger quantities and are yielding well when the bushes are protected from the currant

worm. There is less risk, apparently, in growing the currant than any other small fruits.

Gooseberries are a medium to full crop. Some excellent English varieties are now grown in British Columbia and are likely to be a commercial feature in the near future.

Blackberries have been badly winter killed, but where the vines have been protected promise a medium crop.

The late spring frosts have seriously reduced the aggregate of tomatoes. Losses in early plants will be in part made up by later plantings, but there will still be a shortage not only for canning purposes, but for the general market.

Fruit canners this year are buying in large quantities at fair prices outside of their early contracts.

Insect pests generally will be less prevalent than last year. The cold, backward spring has been unfavorable for their normal development, so that insects of all kinds have been slow in making their appearance. If spraying has, therefore, been properly attended to, there should be good clean fruit this year.

Weather conditions in Great Britain have not been favorable for fruit. Frost and cool weather have prevailed and the indications are for a medium crop or something less of tree fruits. Small fruits will be something better. Continental Europe will not market more than a medium crop of fruits of all kinds.

The apple prospects of the United States will not be nearly up to that of last year.

Mushroom Growing

Would you kindly give me some information on growing mushrooms, as to the beds, place for growing them, temperature, etc.? Is it true that they will grow in the shade of a building or in an old shed or barn?

E. A. L.

There are so many important details to be considered in connection with successful mushroom culture that it would fill a book to treat them fully. If he is thinking of going into

mushroom culture, it would pay the enquirer to get William Falkner's book on "Mushroom Growing," published by the Orange Judd Co., New York, price \$1.00, which could be obtained through any local book dealer.

In brief, I may say that there is a great deal of uncertainty about growing mushrooms unless one thoroughly understands the business. The most satisfactory place to grow them is in a frostproof cellar. They may, of course, be grown in sheds or buildings during the summer, but when so grown the crop is liable to be injured by insects which deposit their eggs upon the stems, from which maggots develop, as are seen in mushrooms grown under natural conditions. Usually the crop is grown during the winter time, although it may be grown throughout the greater part of the season. The beds are made up of stable manure, which has been thoroughly heated and turned several times to insure strong fermentation throughout the whole pile. The beds are made up when the manure reaches its maximum fermentation, the manure being packed firmly to about a foot or more in depth and covered with three or four inches of good garden loam. After the beds are made up the temperature will probably rise to over 100 degrees. The spawn should not be placed in the bed until the temperature falls to 70 degrees or 75 degrees.

Much of the success in mushroom culture depends upon obtaining good fresh spawn. The spawn usually is prepared in the form of bricks and is broken into chunks the size of hen's eggs and placed about a foot apart each way in the beds. If the spawn is good it should run all through the beds in the course of a few weeks and in six or eight weeks should show signs of a crop. So much, however, depends upon getting good spawn and knowing all the details of management that we would recommend getting a book on the subject and studying it carefully before going into the business on a large scale.

H. L. HUTT,
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"George," she said, "before we were married you were always giving me presents. Why don't you ever bring me anything now?"

"My dear," replied George, "did you ever hear of a fisherman giving bait to a fish he had caught?" Then the kettle boiled over.—Tit-Bits.



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