

Fruit Growing in the Territories.

BY ANGUS McKAY.

Fruit-growing in the Northwest labors under many disadvantages, the principal of which are : severe cold in winter with little snow to cover the bushes or vines ; hot days and cold nights in April and frosts in May. Whether the cold of winter or the thawing and freezing in April does the most permanent injury to the bushes is hard to say ; but both, no doubt, are accountable for many of the failures in fruit culture. Frost or absence of frost in May, when the blossoms are forming or fruit is setting, determines the extent of the fruit crop throughout the country.

Red, white and black currants, raspberries, gooseberries and strawberries are the only varieties of fruit that have so far been successfully grown in the Territories. Native varieties of black currants and gooseberries are cultivated to a small extent but are being replaced by introduced sorts as rapidly as cuttings of bushes can be obtained.

The native plum of Manitoba as well as improved varieties, such as Weaver, Speer, De Sota's seedlings, etc., are being introduced and grown with a fair measure of success. The native plum of Manitoba has, after several years testing, been found suitable ; its hardiness and early ripening qualities recommending it for general use in the Territories, where seasons are short. The improved sorts, with the exception of Weaver Seedlings, have not yet borne fruit, and cannot be recommended or condemned. Weaver produced fruit last year, which, however, did not come to maturity.

Cherries, with the exception of Sand, Rocky Mountain, and other varieties of the same nature, have proved a complete failure. Many of the Sand and Rocky Mountain bushes have borne fruit each year. As a rule, however, the cherries

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