

Do Raspberries Pay?

BY E. M., DRUMMONDVILLE, ONT.

As a delicious and healthy food for home use they do pay, and should be cultivated by nearly all who are landholders. The cultivated varieties are better in quality, and cost less than it usually does to travel through brush and wet grass to gather the wild berries. All landholders who are distant from a daily market should have a raspberry patch for family use.

As a market crop, under favorable circumstances, they pay about as well as strawberries or vegetables.

Upon a suitable soil, near some town or village, with thorough cultivation and persistent attention, success may be expected, but not otherwise.

Red raspberries bring double the average price of strawberries, and cost twice as much for picking. They yield less per acre and are too soft for distant markets. A raspberry plantation lasts much longer than a strawberry plantation, and costs rather less for planting and cultivation. At the present price of strawberries, in the vicinity of small fruit centres, it is likely, that in such localities, raspberries would pay best.

Those who are not both able and willing to give raspberries careful attention year after year, should not grow them on a large scale at all.

It takes over 2,000 raspberry plants to stock an acre, and these may be purchased at from ten to twenty dollars per thousand. An acre can be stocked as cheaply as with strawberries, and can be planted by a man and a boy in one day. As a matter of course, we pre-suppose a nicely prepared mellow soil.

Raspberries are very suitable for planting in young orchards. They are effectual in securing a thick coating of snow in winter, while the trees in turn assist the raspberries by acting as a shade and windbreak. The raspberries should receive exactly the kind of cultivation that the orchard requires. Plowing may be avoided altogether by using Copp Bros.' new iron cultivator. This implement is capable of endless modifications, and may be worked deeper than an ordinary plow.

Ten acres of red raspberries have yielded over \$4,000 in gross receipts. The average crop is, of course, much below this.

Blackcap raspberries are firmer than the reds, and may be shipped to distant markets. The writer has sent them safely 200 miles by railroad. In the vicinity of most of the principal towns and villages of Ontario there is an opening for the profitable cultivation of raspberries.

Woodpecker vs. Apple-worm.

If woodpeckers are plentiful in the orchard they will take care of the apple-worm, even when cuddled up under the paper bands dreaming of wings, and do away with this necessity of examining the bands every week or two. At first I thought the codling moth had hatched in advance of our bi-weekly visit, and escaped the rub of the smoothing-iron by boring through bands instead of escaping from under them; but the rattling stroke of the red-headed woodpecker a few trees off, and the similar peck of his industrious little white-and-black-backed downy cousin (*Picus pubescens*) told the story of the holes, and promised that just in proportion as their crops were filled the apple-crop would prosper. From some bands every larva and pupa had been dislodged by our thorny-tongued benefactor; indeed if any were present where he had been, they had evidently come since his departure and before his return. A barrel of apples for every one is a small valuation. If sheep and swine can be kept in the orchard so much the better, but in any event I mean to try to keep in the woodpeckers and keep out the gunners; and ask and expect that every tree will cease to be a wormy nuisance and "comfort me with apples" fit for other uses than vinegar and the still.—[E. B. U. in N. Y. Tribune.

Care of the Orchard.

Young orchards should be cultivated and manured for the first ten years, when they will bear good crops if properly handled," wrote M. C. Baldwin, of Chemung, N. Y., in a letter to the Elmira, N. Y., Farmers' Club, on the management of orchards. For twenty years he left the wormy fruit that dropped from his trees on the ground, when the apples became so wormy and small that he was obliged to change this practice. For the past three years he has turned in sheep and hogs; they have eaten the drops, and, he thinks, destroyed the worms. For trees that need cultivation he throws manure or coarse mulch around them, and the hogs root it up and turn it over and over again until it is thoroughly mixed. He stacked his stalks and coarse fodder, and fed all in the orchard, and also draws coarse manure there, such as tobacco-stalks, straw or mulch. Leached ashes is considered first-rate, and a little lime is pronounced beneficial. The result is that his fruit is clean, free from worms, smooth and handsome, and the trees bear great crops.

President Hoffman said that many of the orchards of Western New York are treated as Mr. Baldwin treats his. Mr. Barry thinks that the ravages of the codling moth are materially lessened when pigs and sheep have been allowed free run. Joseph Harris, he believed, also approved of this practice. Some farmers leave their orchards without cultivation, but keep the surface of the ground well scarified by using sharp drags freely. If the land is set with grass, President Hoffman had no doubt but that good results follow such treatment. And if pigs or sheep are permitted to pick up all the wormy fruit that falls, they will certainly destroy so many of the worms from which moths are developed as to lessen the damage materially. He did not, however, recommend allowing any stock to run in the orchard at the expense of injury to trees. But where it can be permitted without damage it is a good plan. Essex pigs, which are peaceful and quiet, will do no harm.

G. S. McCann did not approve of allowing any stock to run in the orchard. Cattle, sheep and swine, in his opinion, all do mischief. Better pick up the wormy fruit as fast as it drops and feed it to the hogs than allow a hoof of any kind to enter the orchard. Eighteen years ago he planted an orchard, and for a portion of the trees applied a wagon-load of manure around each one, working it well. There was no doubt about the effect. It could be seen for years. He kept the land cultivated until the trees had made considerable growth, but for some years past it has been in grass.

D. T. Billings ventured the opinion that it is a mistaken notion that hogs and sheep rid the orchard of the codling moth. If the fruit has not been wormy this year in the cases cited, there may be other causes for the exemption. Next year, perhaps, will bring a return of the pest, and its mischief be as great as ever. The sole explanation of the smooth fruit of the past season he believed to be the fact that conditions have been unfavorable for the work of the moth.

W. A. Armstrong said that even should sheep and pigs get all the wormy fruit that drops, there are still enough left on the trees to propagate moths. He does not approve of keeping sheep, pigs or cattle in orchards; has had trees girdled by calves, and others ruined by hogs stripping the bark in the spring.

J. S. Van Duzer had known instances when trees had been badly injured in a short time. On the other hand, pigs will run in orchards for years and do no injury. He had turned hogs, a hundred at a time, in his orchard for days without hurt, although he did not regard the experiment as entirely safe.

For peach, apple and pear trees there is no better plant-food than common ashes scattered over the surface of the soil under the tree. Cinders from a blacksmith shop or foundry are excellent for the apple, pear and cherry. Common salt scattered over the surface of the earth under pear or apples trees about as thickly as you do wheat when seeding, is highly recommended as an antidote to blight. This also secures protection against the aphid on pears or other fruit trees. The aphid is a small woolly insect that works on the roots of apple or pear trees, frequently destroying life.

The Fuchsia as a Window Plant.

It is no wonder that the Ladies' Ear-drop caused a sensation when it was first introduced to the public. The skill and care of the florist have wrought great changes in it since that time, and now it is one of the most attractive and beautiful plants with which our ladies can ornament their windows.

Not only do these plants present a great variety of coloring in their flowers, but they flower so abundantly, each flower hangs so gracefully from its tiny bough, that the whole plant is an expression of grace, and elegance, and beauty.

Another quality which these plants possess commends them strongly to the majority of our friends, they are of the easiest culture, and grow rapidly. They need attention, to be supplied with water, and kept free from insects, and as they increase in size to be transferred to larger pots. They enjoy being taken frequently to the kitchen and showered with tepid water from a fine rose with the garden syringe. Unless this is frequently done they are in danger of becoming infested with red spider. While requiring plenty of light, they should not be exposed to the direct rays of a burning sun, and should have fresh air as abundantly as possible. A little study of their wants while caring for them, will soon enable any one to grow the Fuchsia to perfection. It is always most attractive when grown in pyramidal form, a single upright stalk with the branches thrown out regularly on all sides. When first purchased of the florist the plants will usually be in three inch pots. As soon as the roots are found to have reached the sides of the pot, the plant should be carefully removed from the pot by turning it upside down and gently rapping the rim upon the edge of the bench, and preserving the ball of earth and roots entire; set the plant in the centre of the pot one size larger, fill it with rich porous soil, pressing it firmly around the ball as you put it in, give it a good watering, tie the centre shoot to a stake, and set it in the window to grow. In order to keep them symmetrical it will be necessary to turn them every day, else the branches stretching towards the light will soon give the plant a mis-shapen form. As soon as the roots have filled the new pot, making their appearance against the sides, it will be time to shift the plant into another pot a size larger, and so continue to shift them until the pot is as large as you care to have it. The plants require to be watered freely, but water should not be allowed to stand about the roots, and in order to prevent this the pots should be first well supplied with bits of charcoal or of broken crocks in the bottom before the plants are put in. Having the plant now in as large a pot as is desired, it will soon become a mass of bloom, and continue to bloom for a long time. After it has done blooming it is more satisfactory to throw it away than to winter it over and try to make it break nicely in the spring. Young plants can be had so cheap of the florists now, and they give so much better satisfaction than the average results with old plants, that it seems a great waste of labor and care to try to do anything with them.—[Canadian Horticulturist.

Raising Early Cucumbers Under Glass

D. K. Bliss, New York, advises, when planting cucumbers in hot-beds, one hill to each sash, leaving but three plants in a hill; cover the frame at night with mats or a layer of straw. As soon as the plants are up admit fresh air from the back part of the beds in pleasant weather, and when they show their third rough leaf nip the end of the vine, which will cause it to branch and bear earlier than it otherwise would. Keep up the heat by lining the bed with hot manure as the temperature of the bed subsides. To obtain early cucumbers in the open garden they may be started in a hot-bed by taking pieces of heavy turf or sod, from six to twelve inches square, and placing them grass-side down and planting the seed on the top. When the plants are of sufficient size, and the weather is warm enough, remove to carefully-prepared hills and protect with boxes when the air is cold.

An English gardener names several sorts of potatoes seen at the Paris Exposition, declares them "better for table purposes than the Americans," and advises his countrymen "instead of adding so many worthless American varieties to try some of the French kinds."