

## CRANBERRIES.

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Up and down throughout the Province there are hundreds of acres of swampy lands that at present are of little or no practical value to the owners, and yet possibly a large area of this swampy land could be utilized for the purpose of cultivating cranberries. This subject stands prominently among our neglected industries in this Province, probably from the fact that so little is known about the various points of cultivation and care necessary in order to secure a crop at once profitable and regular. Consumers heretofore have been satisfied with the supply reaped yearly from wild beds in far northerly sections, or imported from the neighbouring republic. But now that the demand is rapidly increasing, and will certainly continue to increase, those who have pieces of waste land suitable for cranberry culture may feel interested in a few particulars on the subject.

There appears to be several varieties of this fruit in European countries, and in some of these countries the cranberry stands among the most reliable and valuable crops for home market and export. But although it is largely grown throughout Europe, our American cranberry being larger and of a much better quality, finds a ready market across the ocean at much higher prices than the native berry. By the British market reports, I find that the demand in that country for the American cranberry has rapidly increased during the past few years, and prices are steadily on the rise, the supply being short of the demand.

The first requisite is to secure a piece of land that can be flooded during the winter season, but it must be so situated that the water can easily be drawn off in spring when wanted. The plot should be sufficiently underdrained or

ditched to avoid holding water stagnant near the surface, as this would induce disease and the breeding of insect enemies.

In preparing the soil care should be taken at the outset to have it free from grass and weeds, although I have seen plots along the sea coast in Maine where, in the course of three or four years, the vines made so close a matting that grass was choked. But like other crops, so in this it will pay to begin with clean cultivation. The plot should be nearly level, so that when flooding there will be an even cover over the whole surface. Lands with peat or muck bottoms are usually considered best. If a regular sod is formed, especially of the coarse strong-rooted swamp grass, it should be removed at a season of the year when the water is low, and in place of this sod a complete cover of fine sand about two inches in depth should be spread over the entire plot. Clay bottom soils should be avoided. Peat or decayed vegetable soil, with a mixture of sand will do, although, if at all possible it is preferable to have a complete top cover of pure sand. The winter is a good time to apply the sand, as there is usually more time for such work at that season, and besides, the expense is generally less for hauling then. If there is danger of grass or weed roots in the soil, the sand should be laid four inches deep over the surface, otherwise half that quantity will be sufficient.

It is not necessary to obtain rooted plants for setting out, as the cranberry grows freely from cuttings. Some growers make small cuttings, broadcast them over the plot and roll or press them over the soil, while others advocate planting in rows. If the soil is clean, broadcasting the cuttings is probably best, as the vines cover the surface sooner and thus prevent the growth of grass and weeds. When they are planted in rows there is usually too