

tors at first use far too much water, to the detriment of their crops and lands.

#### HOW OFTEN TO APPLY WATER

The number of times that water should be applied during a season again depends on climate, soil and crop. In the Kamloops District, fruit trees should not be irrigated oftener than two to three times, the last irrigation about August 1st.

It is not enough to merely apply water to the land, and think you have done your whole duty. Irrigation must be accompanied by constant and thorough cultivation of the soil. After each irrigation, before the soil has begun to bake and crack, but not so soon that it will turn up in lumps of mud, the furrows should be broken with a good two-horse cultivator, this to be followed in a day or so by a thorough cross cultivation. At

least every two weeks, oftener if possible, until the next irrigation, the soil should be stirred to a depth of three or four inches with harrows or a fine cultivator. The object of this cultivation is to keep the soil in a loose, fine condition, so that it will hold the largest possible amount of air and water without becoming heavy and also to conserve the moisture by reducing evaporation to the minimum, and to keep down weeds.

## Growing Peaches in the Okanagan Valley

Clement Aitkins, Peachland

**W**E are still young in peach growing, but I expect to see the time when we will be famous for our fine peaches. Peach trees grow well with us, and the fruit is unsurpassed in flavor and color. On the occasion of the visit of the members of the Western Canada Irrigation Association last August, many expressions of surprise at seeing such fine fruit were heard.

We have such a fine climate for peach growing that we expect to have annual

of the top. This is important. If it is not done the trees will not maintain a strong and vigorous growth, and will not bear large crops and well matured fruit. When it is done, the trees will not split readily and they will live longer.

In the Niagara district of Ontario I had peach trees twenty-two years old. They had not been well handled throughout their life-time or they would have borne good crops up to thirty years old. I believe that trees will do that here. We

It is important also that the laterals bearing the fruit should be shortened at least one-third. This in conjunction with irrigation, cultivation and feeding, not only gives good strong trees, but it also aids in producing well colored fruit and it prevents to a great extent the spending of money on hand thinning of fruit. The bulk of the thinning of the fruit should be done with the pruning shears.

With skill and experience and sufficient capital to make the most of them, one can grow thirty boxes of peaches per tree. The usual yield is ten to thirty boxes per tree according to the experience of the grower, upon whom depends the success or failure of the venture.

### Canadian Raspberries

W. T. Macoun, C.E.F., Ottawa

Quite a number of good raspberries have originated in Canada, but time forbids mentioning them here. Descriptions of these will be found in the list to be published later. There is one red raspberry, however, that must be referred to, namely, the Herbert, which is rapidly making its mark.

Herbert (Whyte's No. 17) is a chance seedling originating with Mr. R. B. Whyte, Ottawa, Ont., in 1887; one of thirty seedlings, probably of Clarke; a very strong grower, hardy and very productive. The fruit is large to very large; obtusely conical, bright to rather deep red; drupes, medium size, not crumbling, moderately firm; sweet and subacid, sprightly, juicy and of good flavor; quality very good; season, begins a few days before Cuthbert. The best red raspberry tested at Ottawa. It has all the good points required in a berry for local market, being hardy, vigorous, productive, with fruit of large size, good color and of very good quality. If firm enough for distant shipment, it may displace Cuthbert. Two excellent Canadian black-caps are the Hilborn and Smith's Giant.



Four Year Old Peach Tree in a Well Kept and Irrigated Orchard  
Plantation of Mr. R. H. Agur, Summerland, B.C.

crops. The soil is a sandy loam, somewhat stony, and is most suitable for all kinds of stone fruits.

It is important that the peach trees should be pruned severely. Start them with low heads about fifteen or eighteen inches from the ground. Shorten-in the unusually long roots to a convenient length. Prune all broken and damaged roots before planting. Each year cut back about two-thirds of the new growth

have the soil and the climate, and some of us have the experience to prune the trees hard, to keep the heads down, and after a few years to head back by degrees the main branches, cutting them short off, and forming new leading branches. Where several new branches grow, cut out the weak ones, keeping only the strong and heading them back well at the next winter's pruning. Thus, new heads may be formed.