

make way for younger wood. It is advisable to cut out all branches which touch the ground as there will then be a better circulation of air, and the fruit will be kept off the ground. Gooseberries will often begin to bear the second year after planting, but there will not be a full crop until the fourth season. If the soil is kept in good condition by an annual application of well-rotten barnyard manure in the autumn, harrowed in the following spring, and if the bushes are kept sprayed and well pruned, the plantation will not need to be renewed for many years."

The important point to remember is that the finest fruit is borne on the young wood. After two or three years of bearing the wood begins to fail and produces inferior fruit in smaller quantities. There should always be strong, vigorous growth coming on to take the place of the older wood as it is cut out. Also excessive sunlight induces mildew, as well as scalding, and in pruning this point should be carefully borne in mind. The bush must be kept fairly open to facilitate picking, etc., but at the same time the fruit thrives better where it is shaded from the direct rays of the sun.

#### RENEWAL OF PLANTATION.

In commercial planting it is unusually recommended to renew the plantation of both fruits after eight to ten years. The bushes will live and bear much longer than this, but they will not be as vigorous and bear as much or as fine fruit as younger bushes. However, with good care, liberal fertilizing, and proper pruning, bushes may be kept in a profitable condition for many years.

It is a safe rule to replant as soon as the first trace of waning vigor is detected. The advantage of young and vigorous plants will more than repay the cost of replanting. Bushes in the home garden may be renewed and reinvigorated by cutting back to the ground and manuring heavily.

#### PICKING.

In picking red currants care must be taken to see that the pickers do not strip the fruit off the stem, leaving the stem attached to the bush. When the fruit is stripped off in this manner, the skin is often broken and the fruit quickly spoils. Pickers should be instructed to take the whole bunch off intact. Varieties of currants which have a long clear space of stem at the base of the clusters, as for example, Fay, have quite an advantage, as they can be easily picked without crushing any of the fruit. Black currants are picked by stripping the fruit, leaving the cluster stem on the bush.

The thorny nature of the gooseberry bush complicates the picking of the fruit to some extent, and apart from making the picking a more or less disagreeable task, it increases the cost of the operation. When picked green, the fruit may be stripped off, the picker wearing gloves to protect the hands. After stripping, the fruit is run through a fanning mill to clean out the leaves. Ripe fruit is too easily crushed to be gathered and cleaned in this manner. The berries must be picked singly. For jam-making gooseberries are picked as soon as they reach full size, but before they begin to soften—"hard ripe."

Currants and gooseberries should never be picked when they are wet, as if packed up and shipped in that condition they will soon spoil. For near markets currants should not be picked until almost fully ripe, while for a distant market, the fruit should be picked while still firm, though colored.

Pickers are usually paid about fifteen cents per eleven quart baskets for red currants and gooseberries, and, as they will pick from ten to twelve baskets in a day under average conditions, they make fairly good money at it. Thirty-