

RASPBERRY CULTURE.

The Soil and its Preparation : The red raspberry succeeds best in a deep, rich, loamy, cool moist soil. On light soils and in soils which are liable to dry out in summer the crop will be much lessened in a dry time and the growth of the canes or stalks will not be strong, hence the crop will suffer the next season. The better the soil is prepared before planting the better the results will be. Deep ploughing and liberal manuring are important. If there has been a hoed crop the previous season it will help to make good conditions for rapid growth. If the sub-soil is hard it should be loosened to enable the roots to get down where there is a regular supply of moisture, which is important in dry weather.

Planting : As soon as the young raspberry plants are received, if they cannot be planted at once, a trench should be opened in the soil near where they are to be planted. This trench should be deep enough to allow the roots to be well covered with earth and long enough to permit the plants to be spread out so that the soil will come in close contact with the roots of all the plants and prevent their drying out. Soil is then put over the roots and tramped down closely around them. If it is possible, however, it is best to set the plants in their permanent positions as soon as they arrive. A line should be used to get them straight, a piece of binder twine will do for the purpose if a better line is not available. The plants should be set three feet apart in rows six feet apart. The first row should be three feet from the outside edge of the plot and the second six feet in from that. The first plant should be set three feet from the end of the plot. After making places every three feet along the line a hole should be made large enough and deep enough so that when the soil is put back the roots will be well covered. From four to five inches in depth is about right. After covering with soil the latter should be tramped with the feet to bring it in close contact with the roots. The second row is now put in in the same way. After planting, the surface soil should be loosened and levelled with a hoe or rake so that moisture will not evaporate so rapidly as it otherwise would, and in order to have the rows look neat. The surface soil should be kept loose throughout most of the summer to obtain as rapid a growth as possible. No fruit need be expected the first season.

Care of Plantation the Second and Third Seasons: The raspberry grows from the same root year after year but is multiplied by numerous suckers which spring up all around the main root. While the same plant remains from year to year the canes which bear the fruit are not so permanent. They grow one year, bear fruit the next year and then die; they should then be cut out and the new shoots which have grown up allowed to take their places. The canes which grow in 1915 are not likely to be strong enough in most cases to bear much fruit in 1916, but those who get the best canes are likely to get the best crops. The best success will