

common spading fork ; it does not cut the roots but pulverizes the ground well. Hold it in a perpendicular position and work it around ; do not put it under and raise the roots.

When plants get about two feet high, pinch the tips off ; this makes them grow branching and less liable to be broken and twisted by the wind. As soon as possible after the fruit is all picked, remove the old canes and a portion of the new ones, leaving the strongest for bearing next year. For removing the canes I use a piece of steel about the width of a pruning knife blade, curved into a hook and fastened into a handle about two or three feet long. This is the best instrument for the purpose. Very late in the fall or early in the spring, cut back from one-quarter to one-third of the new growth. For this purpose I use a pair of steel shears, the blades of which are about one foot long and about one to one and a half inches wide, filled into light wooden handles. With this tool a man can do a large amount of work. Cut the small canes farther back in proportion to the larger ones.

In marketing, select the man or firm which, upon careful enquiry, you find the most reliable. Then if you pack your fruit honestly, which you should make a point always to do, and raise choice fruit, which you can certainly do if you give it proper care, you will reap a good harvest.

Wishing also to get something for our beginners from Mr. Scott's experience in

BLACKBERRY CULTURE.

He gave in response to enquiry a note as follows :—

For blackberries, select a high location. Heavy, well drained soil is much preferable to light soil. Use the same care in the selection of varieties, setting of plants, thorough cultivation and pruning as in raspberries. Rows should be from seven to eight feet apart, and plants should be set two and a half to three feet in the row. Do not set any tender varieties. Snyder and Taylor's Prolific I have found the hardest I have tested. The Snyder is quite an early variety and enormously productive. For that reason the canes must be thinned and pruned closely. Taylor's Prolific is later and a very fine quality. The blackberry, if kept in proper shape and well cared for, is very profitable, even more so than the raspberry.

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