

profitableness of the crop, especially in small garden plots for family use. Among large growers the Wilson's Albany has for years past been exclusively grown for shipment, but now we are glad to be able to report an advancement in taste, and soon the Wilson's Albany will have to give way to some finer and more palatable varieties. When pocketing our ten or eight cents per quart for the Wilson, we cannot help feeling a twinge of conscience at our gain, which will surely bring *internal* discord in the family of the city consumer. The fact is, Wilson's Albany is a good strong grower, a prolific bearer and a good shipper; but in order to reach the market and allow sufficient time there to reach the unfortunate consumer, the grower picks it before actually matured. It is picked when a fine lively bright crimson, and certainly looks very attractive, but it is not ripe, and has only commenced to acquire that true strawberry flavour which is so delicious and enjoyable. The fact is, that so long as growers pick and ship this variety as they now do, consumers who depend upon them will not be purchasing better than a third to a fourth-class berry. At its best we do not look upon it as better than second-rate. One Huron grower has an acre of Triomphe De Gand, and he finds ready sale locally for his crop in preference to Wilson's, which has to travel cityward now since the advent of this variety. There appears to be a desire among growers to find a berry that has all the good qualities of Wilson's Albany for cropping and shipping, together with a superior character in other respects. Sharpless is gaining in favour, and already has been shipped as far east as Toronto by way of experiment, and with gratifying results, having brought wholesale ten cents per box, while Wilson's Albany sold for six and seven cents. Arnold's No. 23 is spoken highly of as likely to prove a fairly good shipper. It certainly is a strong grower, prolific, and of extra fine quality. Crescent Seedling is variously spoken of as medium to good; some complain that it does not ripen evenly, while others say the difficulty is that as a cropper it cannot be depended upon. Col. Cheney and New Dominion are being tested largely, with very favourable results. In Huron the strawberry crop the past season was injured by late spring frost, and therefore was not much over half the average yield. The crop finds ready sale in our towns and villages, where most of the past season's crop was consumed. Small shipments were made to Mitchell, Stratford, and other towns. The price averaged ten cents per quart retail, and seven cents wholesale. In Bruce the crop was a failure, having been entirely destroyed by the June frost, so that the local markets had to import a supply from Hamilton and Oakville sections. In Grey, strawberry culture is largely on the increase, and now the section around Owen Sound produces sufficient to supply that and many other towns and villages in the county, besides making large shipments to other sections. Prices range from six to twelve cents per quart, depending upon samples and state of the market. Wholesale prices are as low as five cents. Probably there is no section of this district better, if so well, adapted to the cultivation of strawberries as that in the vicinity of Owen Sound. The soil here upon which this crop is grown most successfully is composed in about equal parts of sand and clay, not too stiff to be difficult to work, and strong enough to give a luxuriant growth. Large quantities of the wild strawberry are still found in sections of Bruce, and bring good prices even in competition with cultivated varieties. The entire crop of this district would average about 2,200 quarts to the acre for the season, the largest average yield being at Owen Sound.

Raspberries have not been cultivated largely in any part of the district on account of the plentiful supply of wild fruit, which sells freely at from sixty cents to one dollar per patent pail. But it is altogether likely that growers will plant largely of cultivated varieties now that the market has been tested successfully with them. It was feared that the wild berries would make the cultivation of our fine varieties unprofitable, but those who have made a trial report that there is a rising demand for the finest fruit, and that raspberries can be cultivated profitably. Encouraged by this experience, we find growers planting freely of the finest varieties. Those that have been tested in Huron are Philadelphia, Franconia, Turner, Brinkles' Orange, Herstine, Highland Hardy, Brandywine, Arnold's Diadem, Clark, Kirtland, Cuthbert, of red varieties, and Doolittle, Gregg, Davison's Thornless, and Ontario, for black varieties. All of these have proved hardy along the lake shore. Of these varieties the Philadelphia is considered the best cropper and most valuable among the reds, and Gregg for black. It is found beneficial to shorten