

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Raspberries.

Hitherto the Raspberry has not been as generally grown in our gardens as the strawberry, and the supply of the market has been chiefly obtained from those found growing wild, which are much inferior in size, beauty, and flavor to most of the varieties now cultivated. One of the causes of the past neglect of this delicious fruit is to be found in the fact that the Antwerp raspberries, introduced from England, will not endure the climate of many parts of Ontario, the severe winters killing the canes if left unprotected. In the Province of Quebec, where the snows fall early and deep, and remain all winter, the tenderest varieties of raspberry are sufficiently protected by the snow, and no difficulty is experienced in raising fine crops.

Of late years attention has been turned towards the production of more hardy varieties, and some have been found which endure well the changeable winters of southern and western Ontario, so that a fair crop of fruit can be counted on every season. Our Canadian hybridists have been trying their skill also upon this fruit, and Charles Arnold, of Paris, and Wm Saunders, of London, have attained results which promise to be of value to the consumers of raspberries.

The strawberries are hardly gone before the early varieties of raspberries begin to ripen, so that those who have a few stools in their fruit garden will be able to keep the table supplied with choice fresh fruits without intermission. And though perhaps one may say that we never tire of eating strawberries, yet when they are nearly gone, and the first fully ripened raspberries are placed upon the table, they are relished with a zest which makes one doubt for the moment if he does not almost prefer the raspberry. If, too, our good people would banish pies and cakes from the table and supply their place, at least during all the summer and autumn, with fresh berries in season, then pears, and apples, and grapes, they would find the change most beneficial to health, and the fruit no more expensive than pies and cakes, and much more pleasant to the taste.

Planting the Canes.

The raspberry thrives best in a very deep, well drained, rich moist soil, that retains its moisture well through the heats of summer. If the preparation of the soil has been thoroughly attended to, as laid down in our suggestions under the head of Kitchen Garden, it will be in good condition for planting. This may be done in the fall or spring. If planted in the fall in those parts of the country where they are not likely to be covered all winter with snow, some coarse litter, such as corn-stalks, strawy manure, &c., should be thrown over them to keep the frost from heaving them out. The plants for garden culture may be set in rows six feet apart, and the plants three feet apart in the row. In field culture, for marketing, it is better to plant six feet apart each way, so that the ground can be cultivated in all directions with a horse. In planting, care must be taken not to break off the buds which are sprouting from near the roots, it is from these buds that the canes are to be formed, which will yield fruit next year. The plants should be set in the ground deep enough to cover these buds well, say to a depth of about two inches.

Cultivation.

As soon as these buds have grown sufficiently to make their appearance above ground, the ground should be thoroughly stirred and cleaned of all weeds; and so through the entire summer, frequent stirring of the soil will much promote the healthy and vigorous growth of the raspberry canes. During this, the first season after planting, be sure to prune back each cane about the end of July to within one foot of the ground, and if there be side branches on the portion left, cut them back to within four or five inches of the main cane. This pruning back during the first summer is very important in order to secure a strong vigorous plant for years to come.

The next season some fruit will be gathered from these canes, and new, strong shoots will come up from the ground to form canes for fruiting the following summer. The canes that bore fruit will die in the autumn, and as they are of no further use, but in the way of the young canes from which the fruit will be gathered next year, they should be cut off at the

ground as soon as the fruit is all gathered and taken away. The young canes of the second summer should be allowed to grow about two feet high and then the top pinched off, and the lateral branches be kept pinched back to about eighteen inches in length. The third and subsequent seasons the young canes should be pinched back when from twenty-four to thirty inches in length, and the side branches stopped at about eighteen or twenty inches from the main cane. If the plants are thus pruned during the growing season they will become strong and stocky, requiring no support and yielding fine, large fruit, which will be bore up out of the dirt.

Every year, as soon as the fruit has been gathered, the canes that bore the fruit should be removed, that more room and air may be given to the young canes that are growing up to supply their place, and in the autumn a liberal supply of well rotted manure should be spread on the surface of the ground, particularly over the roots around the stools. And if the ground be kept well mulched near the plants, where it is not likely to be stirred when cultivating, the labor will be well repaid by the superior quality of the fruit.

We shall hereafter describe a few of the more valuable sorts that may be advantageously grown in this climate.

Early Melons.

If you want early melons plough up a piece of soil as deeply and as early as possible. Now, when the soil is in the right condition to stir, be sure to get it mellow. Plant the second week in April, if you wish, ten feet one way by five feet the other. In planting, take a flower pot or a common crock that has no bottom; place it over the hill, then bank up the earth all around the outsides of it to the height of 4 inches, pressing it solid. Then take hold of the crock and give it a twist or two, so as to loose it from the earth; carefully draw it up so as to leave ridges of the earth standing. Plant the seed inside, and cover three-fourths of an inch with good rich earth. Now take a common window glass, say 8 by 10, and place over it, leaving it till the plant comes up. Then take a lump of earth, or a stone, or anything suitable, and lay it under one side or end of the glass so as to raise it enough to let in the air. By this method you will harden the plant sufficient by the time frost disappears to remove the glass. Two plants to the hill are sufficient.—*Cor. Cin. Gazette.*

Liquid Manure for Strawberries.

An English gardener has been very successful with his strawberry crop for several years on the same bed, and attributes the abundance and size of his fruit to the use of a liquid manure, composed of one pound each of Epsom salts, Glauber's salt, pearl ash and carbonate of soda, and one-half pound of muriate of ammonia to sixty gallons of water. He applies this manure as soon as the plants show signs of growth in spring, watering them pretty freely without a rose, three times, at intervals of about a week, so as to finish before they come into flower; and if the season be dry, he finds it absolutely necessary to supply them liberally with common water afterwards during their whole time of growth, or their increased activity, he thinks, would very quickly kill them.—*Rural Carolinian.*

THE ORCHARD.

The Sum and Substance of Successful Fruit Culture.

The most important items in fruit culture are:

1. Thorough and perfect drainage, either natural or artificial.
2. Proper preparation of the soil for planting; clean after cultivation, and constant care of orchards.
3. Regular manuring of the trees for the first three or four years, unless the natural fertility of the soil is sufficient.
4. Mulching shallow soils under the trees, with shallow culture for such soils to protect the roots from drought in the one case, and their destruction by the plough and spade in the other; as, in such soils, the roots lie near the surface and also require more space to travel in search of food.
5. Deeper ploughing and stirring where the soil is rich and deep, with no mulching beneath the trees.
6. Train according to the habit of the tree, without material disturbance of large limbs.
7. The advantages derived from scraping apple trees are very great.—This operation should not be neglected in winter or spring; the improved appearance and condition of the trees will reward the labor; and it is probable that many insects will be destroyed—at least their harboring places will. A drawing knife is a good implement for this work—use

the back of the knife. After scraping use a strong wash of soapuds. For very young trees use only the soapuds and not too strong.

8. The best implement to use immediately under the trees is the garden or spading fork. It breaks the soil well and does but little injury to the roots. — *Farmer.*

Apple Tree Borers.

A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* says, that he has prevented the attack of apple tree borers by putting a bushel of tan bark around the stem of each tree. The tan bark answers the double purpose of keeping out the borers and a mulch. No weeds grow through it, and the writer states that he has never known a tree to be attacked, with tan bark around it.

Large Pears and How Raised.

Some of our readers have heard of the magnificent pears raised by Mr. Leighton, of Norfolk, Va. The method of culture, given by him in the *Horticulturist*, is another proof of the old saying that "from nothing nothing springs," and that pears cannot grow without food. His trees, which are dwarf, are planted 12 ft. apart each way—a little further would be better—in large holes, filled with top-soil mixed with a compost of muck, wood-mould and lime—the two first in about equal parts, and the lime one twelfth. No crops are allowed to grow in the pear orchard before June, and the surface is kept clean. Strawberries Mr. L. finds to be the most exhausting. He remarks, "Persons who have not courage and disposition to spare the land and keep it thoroughly cultivated, should not embark in the business of pear culture." The holes in which the trees are set, and which are filled with earth and compost, are three feet deep—which is not in accordance with the theory that trees do best when the roots are near the surface. Mr. L. sums up as follows:

In short, the following are requisite for successful pear culture in Eastern Virginia:

1. Perfect drainage.
 2. Stiffest clay soil.
 3. Proper planting of the trees.
 4. Clean culture.
 5. Healthy trees (which can be had of responsible nurserymen direct, without the intervention of an agent, and imparting the satisfaction of having every tree true to name.)
 6. Timely supply of proper food for growth of both wood and fruit.
 7. Determination, patience, and sufficient of the sacrificing spirit to remove all fruit until the tree has sufficient wood to sustain it without checking the wood growth.
 8. Judicious pruning (better none than too much.)
 9. Careful picking, packing and handling of the packages.
 10. The right kind of an agent to dispose of them.
- Maryland Farmer.*

Transplanting in the Night.

A gentleman, says the *Western Ruralist*, anxious to ascertain the effect of transplanting at night instead of by day, made an experiment with the following results:—He transplanted ten cherry trees while in bloom, commencing at four o'clock in the afternoon, planting one each hour until one o'clock in the morning. Those transplanted during the daylight shed their blossoms, producing little or no fruit, while those planted in the dark maintained their condition fully. He did the same with ten dwarf trees, after the fruit was one-third grown. Those transplanted during the day shed their fruit; those transplanted during the night perfected their crop, and showed no injury from having been removed. With each of these trees he removed some earth with the roots. The incident is fully vouched for; and if a few more similar experiments produce a like result, it will be a strong argument to horticulturists, etc., to do such work at night.

The Canada Red Apple.

The Central New York Farmer's Club referred this variety, with others, to the fruit committee to report whether they would succeed in central New York. The committee says of this variety, that while the tree is hardy and succeeds well, the fruit is too frequently below the medium size, and is therefore better adapted to the garden of the amateur, than to general cultivation, many other varieties commanding a more ready sale in the market.

This apple is one of good quality, but the tree is a poor grower, and for this reason also, as well as on account of the size of the fruit, it has not been generally grown.