

tion. The suckers are allowed to spread until a hedge-row is formed 30 to 36 inches wide. A space of three feet is maintained between the rows. This system is convenient for working with a horse cultivator, and specially adapted to growing between the orchard trees. A suitable arrangement is three rows of berries with the outside rows nine feet from the trees. When the orchard rows are 30 feet apart this gives satisfaction.

FERTILIZERS.

A fruit plantation needs plenty of fertilizers. Some growers rely solely on the commercial fertilizers. It is true that this avoids weed seeds, but it also results in a deficiency of humus and a compact surface soil. Wood ashes and barnyard manure, at least every two years, keeps the soil in good condition if sufficient cultivating is done. Shallow cultivation is best. Mr. Sherrington used the plow in his plantation one season and ruined the whole patch. The roots gradually come near the surface and plowing cuts the roots that supply the nourishment. A one-horse cultivator, that works the ground up two or three inches,

used once a week, or oftener in dry weather, was recommended.

PRUNING.

No summer pruning is done in Mr. Sherrington's orchard, as such practise causes late laterals and numerous suckers. If there is time all the old wood is taken out in the fall; if not, this work is done in the spring after the fruit trees have been pruned. At the latter time, also, the canes are cut back. Great judgment is required in the distance to cut back. In some cases the canes have made rank growth. If there is a sufficient number of buds low down the canes can be cut back much more severely than if the buds are higher up. All canes that are damaged by frosts are removed. The canes are thinned out, leaving the strongest ones four to six inches apart.

From following such methods satisfactory results were obtained during the past season. From 23 rows, 300 feet long, in a young apple orchard, about 3,600 boxes were harvested, and the returns netted seven cents a box. According to Mr. Sherrington, a good yield is 3,000 to 4,000 boxes from an acre.

THE CURRANT PLANTATION

SEVERAL years' experience in the culture of currants have resulted in Mr. A. W. Peart, of Burlington, being classed as an expert in the growing of that class of fruit. Experiments have been carried on by him at the Burlington station, and the members of the Fruit Growers' Association were given the benefit of his work along that line in an interesting paper presented at the annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association last month.

THE BEST SOIL.

After years of testing, Mr. Peart has concluded that a rich, moist, cool soil gives best results. In case the soil is very fertile satisfactory returns can be had among the

orchard trees. When the bushes are shaded there is not the liability to scald that is found in the open, especially with the red varieties.

Better results are obtained from wide planting. The distance apart depends on the variety. As a rule the reds may go closer than the blacks. For the average plantation 6 x 6 or 6 x 7 is advisable. Fall planting should never be practised unless the soil is naturally well drained. If the land is low and wet the plants heave and are found lying on the surface in the spring because they had not time to become established before winter caused the growth to cease.