

species. The Downing is still more largely planted in America than any other variety of gooseberry. This is doubtless largely due to the fact that comparatively little has been done towards improving the gooseberry in America during the past fifty years. The most work seems to have been done by Dr. Wm. Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, the originator of the Pearl, Red Jacket, and many other seedlings and crosses not yet on the market. These varieties were all originated in London, Ont. There is a good field for work in improving the native gooseberries, as there is no apparent reason why the size should not be equal to the best English varieties. The quality of the American varieties is considered by some to be better than the average English gooseberry, but the flavor is not nearly as good as the best English sorts."



FIG. 3.—Red currants and corn in a Burlington orchard.

The native species of gooseberries in Canada are found growing very far north, so that eventually its culture, as with the currant, will extend to those districts where other bush fruits and tree fruits are too tender to stand the long and severe winter.

The gooseberry as now grown is objectionable on account of its thorns, and although this may seem a trifling objection to many, yet it is an important consideration when picking times comes around. Breeding and selection will, no doubt, in time produce a good commercial thornless gooseberry. An English variety has been recently introduced which is said to be thornless. Also at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, there are several young seedlings which are perfectly free of thorns, though probably it will be some time before a commercial thornless variety is originated from them.

For culture in Ontario, the American gooseberries, perhaps, have most to recommend them, the mildew being the great drawback to the English varieties. American varieties have vigor, hardiness, ease of propagation, and superior quality.