



Growing Cranberries.

We have heard much and printed much in the *Telegraph*, relative to the growing of cranberries. An effort has been made to show that cranberries can be profitably grown on uplands—that is, without the assistance of water, swamps, or overflowing; and though several instances were given of success, we still hesitate to believe that they could be cultivated on such land with sufficient profit to make it an object. But where there is water to overflow at proper times, or even the ground be naturally moist throughout the season, there is little doubt but that the cranberry can be made one of the most profitable crops grown. Thousands of acres in every State of the Union, now lying worse than idle, could be transformed into the cultivation of this fruit, which would add more to the common exchequer of the farmer, than four times the amount of his best ground in the ordinary crops. The following instance of the reclamation of a worthless swamp, in Franklin, Massachusetts, will open the eyes of some of our readers:

Something like ten years since, this swamp was covered over with a growth of alders, dogwood, white maples, and other swamp shrubs, which covered the ground; they were cleared off, and a ditch cut through the swamp for the brook, which before ran through a very crooked channel. Ditches were then opened from the uplands on each side, which are gravelly and sandy, leading into the main ditch. A dam was constructed across the swamp, which serves the purpose of flowing it, and also that of a road to pass across it. In the winter the swamp was usually flowed, and gravel, this being better than sand, was drawn on to the ice and spread. Afterwards it was planted to cranberry cuttings, in drills about eighteen inches apart, this, from experience, proving to be a suitable distance apart. How many coverings of gravel have been put on, was not learned; but several, judging from the excavations whence removed.

About twelve or fourteen acres of this swamp have been planted; and so favourably is it situated, that it can be covered with water in a little more than an hour's time. The brook is of such capacity, with the aid of a reservoir above the cultivated ground that the plants can be protected from frost at any season when there is any danger.

The crop of the past season was about 1 100 barrels of very nice fruit, and of remarkable size. I brought away a couple of berries that measured nearly three inches in circumference. The crop was all picked by hand, at a cost of nearly \$2 000. At one time two hundred persons might have been seen in that swamp picking cranberries. It was a lively scene. After they were gathered, they were taken to the house, where they were sorted, that is to say, the soft berries after winnowing them, were called out by women and girls, preparatory to barrelling.

The fruit has generally been sold so far as it is marketed, at the current price, though some of it was sold for \$15 a barrel. Call the average price \$10 a barrel, and 1,100 will bring the snug little sum of \$11,000. This beats tobacco raising out of sight, as the saying is.

One of the peculiar advantages possessed by this over most of swamp lands, is, the facility with which it can be flowed at all seasons of the year, thus guarding the growing crop from both late spring frosts and early autumn frosts; and besides, gives the power to destroy insects that sometimes infest the vines. Swamp lands that can be quickly flowed and quickly drained, cannot be used more profitably than by growing cranberries, as it would seem by this experience. It is also easily gravelled in the winter by flowing it.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

Asters.

The many varieties of this graceful and showy annual are particularly well adapted for cultivation in this country. A little care and attention are all that is necessary, and these are well rewarded by the splendid appearance of the flower when it is in bloom. The aster has been known in Europe for upwards of a century and a quarter; but it has been an object of assiduous culture among the florists of the Celestial Empire from a very early date. In the

able ornament of the parterre. The cost of the seed is a mere trifle, and, in a tastefully ordered flower-plot, its fine rich bloom excites much admiration and yields a large share of gratification.

The seed of the aster may be sown either in a frame or in the open border. In this country, where winter is long in relaxing his stern grip, it is of course desirable to have flowers in bloom as early in the summer as possible. To accomplish this end a frame covered with glass is requisite. A few boards and an old window-sash suffice for its construction, on a small

DWARF POMPON ASTER.



(One-tenth natural size)



(Half natural size.)

year 1720 a small package of seeds was sent to Paris from China, and sown there. Since then, this flower has been introduced into all civilized countries, and won for itself favour wherever it has been cultivated. When first imported to Paris the aster was single, and of only two colours, red and white; but the Germans,

scale, and therefore no amateur florist need be without it. With a shelter of this kind, the seed may be sown in April, and transplanted to the open border or bed, as the case may be, in the end of May or the early part of June. If sown in the open air the middle of May is as early as the operation can safely

IMPROVED ASTER



(One-tenth natural size)



(Half natural size.)

with whom this flower is an especial favourite,—have used great diligence in improving it, and, at the present time, the better sorts are usually designated German Asters. Although, like other annuals, it has only a brief existence, and requires careful raising from the seed each spring, it is nevertheless, a valu-

be undertaken. A warm and sheltered position should be selected for the purpose. If possible, it should be situated on the south side of a fence. Care must be taken to arrange the seed bed so that water will not stand upon it. The ground intended for its formation should be deeply dug and well pulverized.

DWARF ASTER



(One-tenth natural size.)



(Half natural size.)