

lime and quickly add eighteen pounds of finely pulverized sulphur. Stir occasionally. Dilute by adding enough water to make forty to fifty gallons.

"Commence spraying early in the season. Spray the sides of the trees from the windward side, then watch until the wind blows from the other way, and do the other side; a good stiff breeze is preferable. This helps to carry the spray to points on the opposite side of the tree and not only insures better and more thorough work, but also obviates the disagreeable features of the mixture falling back on the clothes and person when spraying is done in calm weather."

To Make Peach Trees Hardier

A. M. Smith, Lincoln Co., Ont.

The destruction of peach orchards for several years in the Essex peninsula by root freezing aroused the attention of planters to the necessity of providing some remedy or prevention for this loss. Cover crops and mulching were tried with some measure of success but, on account of the light sandy soil, it was difficult to produce a good cover crop and mulching was expensive. The board of control of the experimental fruit stations was consulted. They suggested growing the trees on something harder than their own roots as a remedy. They tried to purchase some trees budded on plum but could find none, either at the nurseries in Canada or the United States; so, I volunteered to grow them some if they would furnish me the stocks. Accordingly they sent me in the spring of 1907, 500 each of Americana and St. Julian plum stocks which were carefully planted. They made a fair growth and were budded in August.

The buds took fairly well and made a good start last spring, but about mid-summer, those on the St. Julian stock stopped growing and had quite a sickly appearance (something like the yellows). I got only ten trees out of the entire lot big enough to plant last fall. Those on the Americana stock made a vigorous growth, quite equal to some alongside of them on peach roots. I got over 300 first-class trees out of the 500 budded. The St. Julian will have to be grown another year and it is not likely that they will ever be good trees.

How to Grow Spinach

One of the most popular greens for table use in spring and early summer is spinach. It is easily grown and should be found in every farm garden. The seed may be sown in hotbeds or cold frames early in spring or outdoors as soon as the ground can be worked. It is also a profitable crop to grow for market. The earliest spinach of fall may be had by sowing the seed in the fall. A market gardener in Peterboro Co., Mr. Charles Kitney, who grows about an half an acre of this crop each year, and who recently called on Farm and Dairy, gives his experience with spinach as follows.

"I sow the seed broadcast about the last week in August. The best variety is Large Flanders. The ground should not be mulched with straw or coarse manure. This helps to protect the plants and to drain off the surface water. In spring it is not necessary to weed or cultivate this crop. It grows rapidly. The first lot for market usually is cut about the first of May. The crop will last about one month. Spring-sown spinach comes in when this is done and lasts until early cabbage. The early spinach sells from 75 cents to \$1.00 a bushel. The spring-sown crop brings less money but is more plentiful.

"To grow spinach successfully," concluded Mr. Kitney, "a suitable location must be chosen. It will grow best on the southern side of a hedge or fence where it will be protected. The snow should drift and lie on it. Spinach will stand about the same extremes of temperature as fall wheat."

An Experience with Small Fruits

A. W. Peart, Hutton Co., Ont.

Some valuable information about the growing of currants, blackberries and raspberries was given by Mr. A. W. Peart, of the Burlington district in an address delivered some time ago to growers in that locality. Mr. Peart spoke in part as follows: "We have tested some thirty or forty varieties of red and black currants. Only a few of them have been found good. The red currants that have been successful include the old Cherry, Victoria and Wilder, the latter being a new variety. The North Star and Prince Albert also have done well. These varieties cover the season well, the Prince Albert being a very persistent climber. Of the black varieties of currants, the best with us have been Naples, Black Victoria, Collins' Prolific and Sanders. The varieties also cover the season well.

"In blackberries, we have tested thirty or forty varieties and found a great many to be tender. Only six or eight proved hardy enough for the Burlington district. The good varieties include

a sufficient depth to insure avoiding this mistake.

"Before planting small fruits, and trees, I cut off the ends of the roots. When they come from the nursery the ends generally are more or less bruised. These ends are cut off obliquely on the under side so that the cut surfaces come in close contact with the soil. When this has been done, if the soil is removed some little time after the bushes have been planted, it will be found that soft growths have started out from the roots and obtained a grip on the soil. These growths help to give the bush or tree an early start. I also trim back the tops so that they will correspond with the roots. In the case of currants and raspberries, I prefer to plant the rows six feet apart with blackberries seven or eight feet.

"With a moderate acreage you can start to thin early in February and continue to work until the middle of April. My practice has been to do this work in the spring. In the case of the Cuthbert raspberries, I find that if the old canes are taken out in the fall, it has a tendency to expose the bushes to the gales. This does not apply to the



A Plantation of Raspberries That Gives Much Pleasure and Profit

Raspberries are easily grown, either in patches by themselves, or between the trees in the orchard. There is no reason why very farm home in Canada should not have a patch nearby for family use. The scene illustrated was photographed in Bruce Co., Ont., at picking time.

the Ancient Britain, Snyder Western Triumph and Agawam. All of these are of medium size, are hardy and first-class for commercial purposes. In raspberries, the old varieties, Marlboro and Cuthbert are the best, the former being a week to 10 days earlier than the latter.

"I prefer to do my planting in the spring. If the soil is thoroughly under-drained and there is no fear of heaving, I see no particular objection to fall planting. As regards the soil, I try to have the same conditions as we desire when planting a field of barley or oats. The ground should be sufficiently dry to have life in it. Work can be saved by plowing a deep furrow in the line you intend to plant. In this furrow, plant the currants, blackberries or raspberries as the case may be.

"Too many of us are in a hurry when planting and plant too shallow. It does not pay. The crown of the root is not deep enough in the soil and the wind blows the bushes or tree until it grows in a slanting position. A good many years ago I made this mistake when planting an orchard of apples. Ever since I have aimed to plant at

Marlboro, which does not grow so high. In the spring pruning, I cut the Cuthbert to about three and one-half feet.

"There are certain varieties of blackberries such as Kittatiny, the laterals of which should not be cut off close to the main vine as, by so doing there will be but little fruit. The Ancient Britain and Snyder varieties, however, can be cut off closer, because their fruit buds are nearer the stem.

"I plow to the rows in the fall," said Mr. Peart, "to keep the water from the roots. In the spring, I like to use the one-horse spring-tooth cultivator. It is better to cultivate frequently. The more often this work is done, the better will be the fruit. Raspberries I have sometimes cultivated between pickings and believe that it pays.

"Currants are voracious feeders, and if they are given sufficient fertilizer they do well. They can be grown on almost any variety of soil. My experience has been that a nice, mellow clay loam is the best adapted for all varieties of fruit, except strawberries. Stable manure, well-rotted, makes about as good a fertilizer as can be secured. Wood ashes are good on light soils."