

Question Budget

20. Is Beurre d' Anjou as hardy as Blemish Beauty?
21. Would the Stark apple be profitable in Ontario?
22. Would it be advisable and safe to top dress strawberry plants with nitrate of soda, and what quantity should be used per acre? J. S., Nanaimo., B. C.
23. What is the speediest, handiest and best implement to cultivate strawberries with (for manual labor) and by whom manufactured? J. S.
24. Whether is hot air or hot water the safest to use in a greenhouse where personal attention can be given it? J. S.
25. Which is the best manure to use, superphosphates, or bone meal, on small fruits, such as raspberries, blackberries, currants, etc. J. S.

*Answers to Questions 13, 14 and 15 in "Question Budget," by E. Morden,
Niagara Falls South.*

538. (13) Which is the cheapest fertilizer, manure at \$1.00 per ton; ashes at 10 cts. a bushel; or slacked lime at 7 cts. a bushel, all delivered?

Barnyard manure at \$1 per ton is cheaper than ashes at 10 cts., or lime at 7 cts. per bush. ordinarily. On some soils lime would have some value; on other soils no value. With a soil already rich ashes might be indicated. Where a slow, firm growth of peach or other fruit trees is desired, ashes are preferable to stimulating barnyard manure. As a general rule barnyard manure is the cheapest and best manure.

539. (14) Which pays best, small fruits or the apple orchard?

Small fruits, if within reach of a good local market, would give quicker and larger returns than an apple orchard. Small fruits, for market, should only be grown by those who can and will give them continuous attention during the whole season. The ordinary farmer with a soil suited to the apple, might plant and care for an apple orchard with advantage to himself. To many such a small fruit plantation would prove to be a large nuisance.

540. (15) Will it pay to dig out young apple orchard, just bearing, and of the best varieties, in order to plant grapes or small fruits?

If your soil is exactly suited to small fruits; if your land is very high-priced; if you are near to manure, and a good local market; if you are willing to cultivate the soil and care for the fruits, and fight weeds intelligently for eight months each year, you might perhaps dig out those trees. If land is cheap leave the trees and plant small fruits elsewhere. If apples succeed well with you, give them a chance. Before digging out a bearing orchard to plant grapes, it is a safe thing to calculate the cost of vines, planting, cultivation, posts and wires, pruning, etc. By encountering these expenses for four years without return, your vines reach a bearing age, and if they escape the ravages of multifarious insects and a few fungoid diseases, such as rots and mildews, you will sometimes get grapes that will bring about one cent per lb. Grapes a few years since, brought from four cents to eight cents per lb., and growers in some favored localities made some money, and did much boasting. An uncertain crop at quarter of the former prices, is not the surest possible road to affluence. The man who grows all the best market varieties of small fruits will usually make money out of some of them each year.

*Answers to Questions Nos. 16, 17, 18 and 19 in "Question Budget," by R.
McKnight, Owen Sound.*

541. (16) What is the proper temperature for the cellar in which bees are to be wintered?

A temperature ranging from 40° to 50°.

542. (17) When should bees be removed from the cellar?

Any time between the 1st and 15th of April. The state of the weather and the condition of the bees have much to do in determining the time.

543. (18) May bees not be left out-doors in winter, with some protection?

Yes. More bees are wintered outside than indoors.

544. (19) What is full brood among bees?

An infectious disease which attacks the larva of which they die and putrify in their cells. Foul broody hives emit a peculiar, offensive smell. Its immediate cause is the presence of *Bacillus albi*.