

The Grape Crop of 1870.

From what we have seen and heard during the past few weeks, at the various agricultural fairs held this fall, the year 1870 seems to have proved one of the best and most favourable to grape growing we have ever had in Canada. The unusual excess of heat and sunshine during August and September caused the grape to commence colouring some two weeks earlier than usual, and the absence of frost till late in October enabled every grower to gather his crop of grapes in a fully ripened condition. At the Clair House vineyard, near Cooksville, the early crop of grapes, 20 acres, not only ripened well, but the yield of must was large and the quality much superior to the average of seasons. Even the Catawba, a grape that rarely gets ripe there, is this year fully ripened.

That grapes can be grown and wine made from them in Canada has been fully demonstrated at Clair House, and with the large outlay incurred and appliances put up, we may expect that an article of first-rate excellence will be produced there. An experiment made of stripping the grapes from the stalks previous to being pressed, showed that a much finer, richer, and more highly coloured must could be obtained than under the usual process of pressing grapes and stalks together. As only the best and cleanest grapes are used for wine making, the must from the others being distilled into brandy, there ought to be wines of the highest quality of excellence obtained. The Clinton grape is the one mostly grown, with some Concord, Delaware, Isabellas and Catawbas, but other kinds are being used as fast as the vines come into bearing, and another year or two will test the merits of some of the new sorts for wine making.

J. M.

Raspberries.

The editor of the *Small Fruit Recorder* calls the readers of that interesting and instructive paper that at South Bend, Indiana, the following results are noted in the different varieties named below:

Seneca Black Cap.—The finest distinct black sort. Wonderfully productive, and this season kept in bearing the latest of all. Very superior quality; sells quick. Perfectly hardy and reliable.

Philadelphia.—Hardy; enormously prolific. One of the most reliable.

Clark.—Very hardy and vigorous. Firmer than the last, and better colour, netting nearly as much money from the crop, although not so prolific. Very sweet and delicious.

Mammoth Cluster.—"Ahead of the heap." Immensely productive. The bunches bent to the ground with the load of largest-sized fruit. Pulpy and delicious. In great demand on account of its very sweet and delicious flavour.

Naomi.—Proves hardy, while the Franco-nia kills down by its side, thus showing them to be distinct varieties. Very large, delicious and productive.

Golden Thornless.—Can't be too highly extolled for productiveness, hardness and beauty of fruit. A great favourite.

The reader will remember that the soil on which these plants grow is very light sand.

A writer in the same paper, speaking of raspberries at Palmyra, N. Y., says:

Among our standard reliable sorts, I would name Davidson's Thornless, Seneca, and Mammoth Cluster, as taking the lead for profit and table use of the black kind; and of the red, Clark, Philadelphia and Kirtland. The Seneca sold for the highest prices on account of its fine uniform size and coal black colour, besides yielding a week after other kinds were gone. It certainly keeps in bearing longer than any other, whilst its first pickings were made nearly as soon as the Doolittle. The Mammoth Cluster has no equal for productiveness and large size of fruit, and very sweet, delicious flavour. Another important point in its favour is that it bears just as well on four-year old bushes as those younger. This is of great importance.

The Davidson Thornless should be in every garden. It is deliciously sweet and juicy. Very productive and very early.

The Clark is a magnificent red raspberry, very hardy, never having been hurt by the winter. Fruit large size, and sufficiently fine (if picked as soon as it turns) to carry two to three hundred miles. Its high scarlet colour and most delicious flavour give it a good sale. For home use nothing excels it.

Philadelphia and Kirtland we have often given our opinion of. Suffice it to say that our faith in them is not abated in the least.

The Naomi is a magnificent red variety. Very firm, exceedingly productive, beautiful shape, uniformly large size, high colour, delicious, and bush perfectly hardy. It is certainly a different berry from the Franco-nia.

The Golden Thornless has astonished all who have seen it. Bushes loaded to the ground with wonderful large and beautiful dark golden fruit. If gathered as soon as they turn they are very good, but if allowed to remain on until "dead" ripe, they lose their flavour, and have a dirty, unnatural appearance. We are confident they will become one of the most profitable for drying.

The Lum's fall bearing, or "ever-bearing," and Catawissa are very valuable as fall bearers—especially in sections where peaches cannot be grown. To have them yield large crops the tops should all be cut off just as winter sets in, and a large lot of coarse manure thrown right over the crown. Leave this on in the spring, and allow the new growth to come right up through, and when this gets not to exceed two feet high, nip off the tip ends, so that they will branch out freely, for let it be remembered, that those

varieties yield the bulk of their crop on about six or eight inches of the top of each cane. So that the more tips they have the greater the crop. Moisture is what they delight in, hence the necessity of heavy mulch.

The Black Raspberry—General Directions for its Cultivation.

Since the several varieties of the improved Black Raspberries have become so deservedly popular, not for domestic use alone but for the general market also, it occurs to me that perhaps some specific directions for their cultivation would be received with favour by many of the numerous readers of the horticultural department of your excellent journal. Having made its cultivation and development a specialty for the space of nine years last past, I will submit the following summary:—

It will require 1,500 to 2,000 plants to set a single acre of land. Any good soil adapted to the production of corn or potatoes may be used. A position shielded from the range of heavy winds would be preferable. A partial shade, as a young orchard, is no impediment.

In the fall or early spring prepare your ground as for corn or potatoes, then proceed to strike furrows in the direction you wish the rows to run, seven feet apart, three inches deep, leaving the bottom of the furrow broad and level. Cross-mark with corn-marker three and a half feet apart, and in planting place a plant at each crossing, carefully spreading the small fibres out in the furrow, with the sprout or germ upward, then with the hoe carefully cover all the roots with fine soil two inches deep. After this, with cultivator and hoe, see that neither grass nor weeds are allowed to grow. A crop of early corn, potatoes, beans, or what is more profitable, strawberries, may be grown between the rows the first season without detriment.

They will need no pruning the first summer. Let the whole growth trail on the ground, and during the latter half of August, and through September, attention should be directed to layering the tips for the purpose of producing a valuable crop of plants. When the tips of the trailing vines seem swollen, and become naked or free from leaves, of a reddish colour, and semi-transparent, they are ready for laying, the proper mode of doing which is, with the corner of a hoe excavate the soil under the tip, letting it fall into the cavity, and replacing the soil, pressing all lightly with the foot or hoe. This causes the germ of the future plant to form from, or grow out of the extreme tip or point of the young cane or brier.

And this is the only true process of propagating black raspberry plants, but when thus treated, each plant will multiply itself from ten to thirty fold the first season after