

Massachusetts Horticultural Society, will be an inspiration. He says :

The whole theory of successful soil culture consists in selling water, because it is the cheapest gift to man. The grain farmer cuts great chunks off the plant food in the soil and sends it away, so does the potato grower, the market gardener, the hay farmer, and, so to a less extent, the dairyman. The fruit grower keeps most of his plant food at home and sells water just as truly as though he tapped the spring and piped its water down into the market, only the fruit basket takes the place of pipes.

Fruit culture is one thing that enables us to sell watered stock and satisfy our customers. Disguised in the luscious strawberry, blooming raspberry, ebony blackberry, or beneath the rosy skin of some one of our delicious tree fruits, water finds a ready market at prices that leave "millions in it" for the one who most skillfully assists Nature in "turning water into wine" (fruits). Every season occurs the apparent miracle of turning water, often impure and unwholesome, into rich and healthful fruits, which are "absolutely pure," and free from germs or microbes.

How best and most economically to assist Nature in the work, and reap the greatest rewards, is the question. How shall the watercourses be turned into the channels of tree, plant, and vine, and help to turn the wheels of fruit culture in such a way as to give the best final results?

A deep ploughing and a thorough pulverization of the soil will make it capable of holding much more water than before. A cubic foot of soil will hold, after being pulverized, a hundred times as much water as the soil would before. This water will be taken up by the roots of your fruit trees and so will swell up your fruit. If you cannot

keep enough moisture in the soil by pulverizing you will have to try to do it by mulching and if you cannot do it by mulching, then by irrigation, but let me say that you cannot irrigate a large tract with windmills and tanks.

Just at present a bushel of apples, wheat, or potatoes sells for about the same price, \$1 for 60 pounds. In the apples we sell 1 ounce nitrogen, $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces potash, and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce phosphoric acid, which costs $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents, leaving 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents for the water. Potatoes take from the farm 4 ounces nitrogen, 2 ounces phosphoric acid, and nearly 5 ounces potash, valued at $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents, leaving 93 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for the water. The bushel of wheat has $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds nitrogen, 10 ounces phosphoric acid, and 5 of potash, worth 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents, leaving only 69 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for the water. Fifteen bushels of apples take no more plant food from the soil than one bushel of wheat, yet bottled up under their bright skin you can sell 765 pounds of water for \$14.77! To sell the same amount of water in wheat would take 84 bushels, or the product of five average acres, while the apples would come from one well grown and well nurtured tree. Eighteen pounds water, $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce nitrogen, $\frac{1}{3}$ ounce potash, and so little phosphoric acid that you cannot see it with a microscope, all costing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ a cent, make 10 quarts of strawberries, that sell for \$1, the same as the bushel of wheat, which takes sixty times as much plant food from the soil. Selling water in a strawberry basket enriches both the farm and the farmer.

My trial bed and test plot of strawberries is on medium sandy loam soil, well pulverized to the depth of 15 inches, then subirrigated by $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch perforated iron pipes, lying 6 feet apart, 1 foot below the surface. Every condition is as favorable as I know how to make it