

RASPBERRIES

BY

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The object of this bulletin is to bring before the farmers and fruit growers of Canada, some information regarding the cultivation of the raspberry, together with the experience gained during a period of five years, in testing a large number of varieties at the Central Experimental Farm.

Before going into cultural details it may be interesting to glance hastily at the sources from which our cultivated raspberries have been derived. They have been developed from three wild species. Their origin is clearly and concisely outlined by Prof. A. A. Crozier, in a recent bulletin published by the Michigan Agricultural College, as follows in speaking of :—"The wild red raspberry of Europe, our own wild red raspberry, and our native black cap. The first was known and apparently cultivated by the ancient Greeks, who traced its origin to Mount Ida, where it flourished wild, and from which it received its name, *Rubus Idæus*. Paladius, a Roman agricultural writer of the fourth century, mentions the raspberry as one of the cultivated fruits of his time. From the gardens of Southern Europe it found its way into France, the Low countries, and England, and from these sources into the United States. To this species belong the Red and White Antwerps, which have remained standards of excellence for upwards of a century, the Hudson River Antwerp, Franconia, and other similar varieties." These foreign sorts, though often abundant bearers of large, finely flavoured fruit, as Mr. Crozier further points out, have not proved adapted to the climatic conditions of the United States, and this is also true with regard to Canada, owing to a lack of hardiness and a liability to be injured by our hot summer suns. "These defects finally directed attention to our native raspberries. The black cap (*Rubus occidentalis*) seems to have been the first of these to have been brought into cultivation, and from the time of the earliest settlements we hear of the wild bushes being occasionally removed to the gardens." Prof. Macoun, of the Geological Survey of Canada, kindly furnishes the following particulars regarding the distribution of this species in Canada :—" *Rubus occidentalis* has a very restricted range both to the north and west. It is sparingly found in New Brunswick, quite common in Quebec, west of that city and through Ontario to Lake Huron, though apparently absent from Toronto westward to Lake Erie. On the west coast this species is replaced by one very like it named