

Such a state of affairs is all the more to be deplored because it could have been so easily prevented. In districts where cherry trees are most plentiful, and where the habits of the trees are best known, black knot is a source of very little concern, as it is so easily kept down. It is one of the least of the troubles that fruit-growers have. Pear blight and apple scab, the curculio, the codling moth, and the aphid are to be dreaded; but the black knot needs only to be watched for. All that is necessary is to examine the cherry or plum trees carefully in early winter and cut out every affected branch, with a couple of inches of sound wood below the knot, and burn carefully all that has been cut out. Early winter is the best time of the year to cut out the black knot, because it is more readily seen, because there is more time to do the work systematically, and because the spores of the fungus are scattered abroad in mid-winter. But by all means cut out and burn any appearance of the disease at any time of the year in which it may be seen. To one who has always been careful in this regard, a few hours' work over a large orchard suffices yearly; but this fact one who proposes to grow cherry trees had better realize at the outset, that if the black knot is neglected it will destroy in the end every cherry tree which it can reach.

Raspberries.

Good prices have been obtained this year for red raspberries. The continued dry weather has made them in many places a rather scarce crop; yet, upon the whole, they have been fairly abundant, and, consequently, very remunerative, in the gardens of those who have attended with care to their cultivation. Red raspberries and strawberries are always sure of a good market. Public taste never seems to tire of them. This year gooseberries and red currants soon reached the level of demand, and then flooded the market, so that much of them had to be sold at prices that did not pay for the labor of growing and the cost of shipping them. But rarely do we hear of red raspberries and strawberries failing to bring good returns to the grower.

Raspberries should be planted as early as possible in the spring. They are particularly grateful for good conditions of growth. The soil must be well drained and in thorough cultivation. It is time and labor lost to plant raspberries in low, damp soil. If the plants are not killed outright by the surface water in spring, they are very liable to be attacked by a fungous disease called anthracnose. Raspberries can stand a strong,

rich soil; and a free intermixture of well-rotted barnyard manure in the raspberry bed is desirable. Wood ashes, also, may be scattered liberally over the surface.

It is better, for the sake of cultivating the soil, to grow the raspberries in hills rather than in rows. The plants may be set in holes five feet apart, and the soil should be kept constantly stirred. One good feature of the cultivation of red raspberries is that the plants can be obtained so easily and cheaply. They are propagated in great abundance from underground branches or suckers, that take root and appear as separate plants in all directions around the parent plant.

The Cuthbert variety is the standard one, and for a combination of good qualities it is as yet unsurpassed. The Marlboro is earlier, and is also highly recommended. Shaffer's Colossal is a good canning variety.

China Asters.

China asters are among the best of our annual garden flowers. They are easy of cultivation, free in bloom, and comprise a multitude of forms and colors. They are, therefore, admirably adapted for profuse effects in any scheme of flower-planting. They are grown without the aid of glass, and attain their best bloom late in the season, from the end of August till frost appears, when many of the annuals and almost all the perennials are spent and gone. No garden flowers carry such a profusion of bloom and color during the closing of the season.

The evolution of the China aster suggests that of the chrysanthemum at almost every point. It is a native of China, as its name implies. A Jesuit missionary first introduced it into Europe early last century. At that time it was a single flower; the rays of florets were of two to four rows—blue, violet, or white in color. The centre of the flower was composed of very numerous tubular yellowish florets.

The China aster has been developed most successfully in Germany; the seed which we now use comes largely from that country. The first marked departure from the original type consisted in the prolongation of the central florets of the head, and the production of the quilled flower. Some forty or fifty years ago this type was very popular. The dwarf varieties also began to attract attention about this time. But nowadays the quilled high-centred flower of a generation ago is too stiff, and the flat-rayed, loose, and fluffy varieties are most in demand, and their popularity is usually greater the nearer they