

Planting Cranberries.

In its wild and natural state, the cranberry is found in wet situations; in boggy grounds, in damp sandy lands, and on the low margins of ponds and streams. It will live and grow in comparatively dry soils; but it will not bear fruit without its roots are immersed in water at all seasons of the year.

Soil and Cultivation.—The first object of the cultivator should be to select the soil for his cranberry yard. Every wet situation is not suitable. The soil must either be sand, mud, peat, or a mixture of these. There must be an abundant supply of water at all seasons of the year. If the ground is so situated that it can be flooded during the winter and spring, it is better, but it is not indispensable to success. The ground must be saturated with water, either from springs, running streams, or the drainings from high land. On the low sandy margins of ponds the water is not much affected by the season, a sufficient supply of moisture will ascend, because the little spaces between the grains of sand act as so many capillary tubes for the ascent of the water; but when the margin is compact earth or unmixed peat, the dampness will not on that principle rise to the surface. In a selection of a situation for his cranberry yard, the cultivator must observe first, whether the soil is of a loose, porous character, easily permeable to water, and second, whether there will be an abundant supply of water in the driest seasons. If either of these two requisites is wanting, it will be useless to him to attempt the cultivation of the cranberry.

Planting and Culture.—In boggy grounds it is advisable to retain the top sod, and cover the surface with beach sand if it can be easily procured; if not, with any sand that does not contain loam or surface soil. Till recently the common mode of setting out the vines was, after the bog was covered with sand, it was marked off in parallel rows, like a corn field, and sods of vines set from three to four feet apart each way. The usual method now is, to set in drills about two feet apart. The vines are separated, and only two or three upright stalks are set together, and are placed from six to twelve inches apart lengthwise of the drill. On wet barren sandy land, the expense of setting out the vines is much less than on bogs.

Cuttings from any part of the stem will strike root, and may be used where it is difficult or ex-

pensive to procure a sufficient quantity with roots. Where vines cannot be procured cranberries may be sown. It is not certain but that sowing will ultimately prove the cheapest and most expeditious method. We know of but one instance where cranberries were sown. The experiment was successful, and the ground is now thickly set with vines.

The best time for setting the vines, we are unable to state. The common practice has been to set them at any time when the weather would admit, from March to November. The spring we should think preferable for sowing.

During the first season they are set, vines frequently put forth numerous runners four or five feet long. The next year the runners put forth upright bearing stems, which produce cranberries on the third year. The vines do not usually become so thick set as to cover the ground before the fifth year.

Manure is worse than useless, and any vegetable or animal matter that will cause fermentation is injurious. As a general rule, the more barren the surface of the soil, the better it is adapted to the growth of the cranberry. The growth of the grasses in such situations will be feeble, while the cranberry obtaining its sustenance mainly from water and the atmosphere, grows luxuriantly and will ultimately kill out the grasses and obtain complete possession of the soil.

During the first three years it is better to pull out the grasses than to wait for the cranberry vines to overcome them. Bushes must be carefully removed as fast as they spring up, because if suffered to grow they would do great injury. No other attention is necessary, excepting that good fences must be maintained around the vines to prevent the depredations of herbaceous animals.

Profits.—One bushel of cranberries to the square rod may be considered a good crop from vines that have been set five years, though we could cite particular instances in which four and five bushels have been obtained. Raising cranberries is like every other business in life; if a man judges rightly, is prudent and industrious, he will commonly succeed; but if he depends more on good luck than on good management, in nine cases out of ten he will fail. The cranberry fever is now running high among us, and almost every man you meet exhibits some symptoms of the disease. That fortunes are suddenly to be made by all who embark in the business we do not believe; but that large profits can be obtained from vines set in good situations