

PLUM CULTURE

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Plum growing is a source of profit too often neglected by the farmers of this Province. With the exception of perhaps the apple, the plum can be grown more easily and cheaply than any other fruit. The advantages to the farmer in raising plums are twofold: In the first place, his family can derive both pleasure and benefit from the use of the fruit while ripe and fresh in summer and fall, and also when canned or preserved it can be used in winter and spring. In any of these forms few fruits are more pleasant, palatable and wholesome than the plum. In the second place, the plum is one of the most profitable fruits for market, and this is no small consideration. For these reasons every farmer should have a plum orchard, small or large, as his experience may suggest.

SOIL, PREPARATION AND PLANTING.

Any good, dry soil will grow plums. If not dry, drain the land with tile or stone at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet deep, or pine poles with a slab will do in case the other materials are not available. Plums will do well on all soils, from the lightest sands to the heaviest clays, by planting the proper varieties. A rather elevated situation is better than low land, as the trees in such a location are not so likely to be affected by late spring frosts. In preparing for planting, if the soil is a heavy clay sod, it is best to plow in narrow ridges in August and to harrow well in the spring. Then open out the ridge with the plow deep enough for setting out, plant in the bottom of the furrow and plow the soil back to the trees again; the rotting sod will help to keep the soil moist. For sandy or loamy soil, where the land will not bake by spring plowing, the best way is to plow and leave the furrow just where you want your row of trees, and plant as above. By this means you can plant a large number of trees in a day, and if the soil is properly pulverized and cultivated there should be no loss. If the season is inclined to drouth, mulch with coarse, strawy manure, but do not pour water down by the roots, as that washes the soil from the roots and causes