



The CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD



AGRICULTURE, THE KEYSTONE OF CANADIAN PROSPERITY

PLEASURE AND PROFITS IN SMALL FRUITS*

**On Every Farm There Should be a Small Fruit Patch—Pointers from Experience of a Practical Farmer—Pleasure and Money for Everybody—
By W. J. White, Hammond, B.C.**

DURING the past year or two a large number of people have come into British Columbia for the purpose of going into fruit growing. Last season it was a common occurrence to have parties come along enquiring about fruit lands and fruit growing, especially about small fruits, because the returns come in a little quicker than from the tree fruits. While fruit growing appears to be an ideal occupation, yet, like all other businesses, to make it successful, it requires a good deal of attention to small matters. Most people that are going into fruit want to know what amount of money they can make out of it. The first thing is to find a suitable location. One authority gives the following as the requisites to success in small fruit culture: (1) A love of fruits for their own sake and pleasure in their culture. (2) A soil fairly well adapted. (3) Markets within easy reach. (4) A supply of extra laborers near enough to be promptly available in emergencies. (5) Plant no more than can be thoroughly cultivated and profitably marketed.

SOIL

There is some difference of opinion as to what is the best kind of soil for fruit growing. From observation and experience, I think a nice sandy loam is the best all-round soil. Any soil that is wet and on which water stands for any length of time will need underdraining. Put in a good system of tile drains. Don't be afraid of getting them too deep and you will have the land in shape for growing good crops.

REMARKS

We might class rhubarb with the small fruits; at any rate, it is a starter for the fruit season. If one has a good piece of deep black loam or bottom land he might make some money from

NOTE—While this article is based on conditions in British Columbia, the general principles mentioned are applicable to local conditions in all parts of Canada.—Editor.

rhubarb. A good deal depends on the earlyness.

STRAWBERRIES

Perhaps the ground that is intended to plant strawberries on needs more attention than for any other crop. All kinds of vegetation make a rapid growth on this coast and weeds are no exception, especially on soil that is in good fertile condition. A good plan would be to grow

15 inches apart in the rows. If we could pick out cloudy days for planting, it would be all the better. Firm the dirt well around the plants. They will start up better. Be sure and get young healthy plants from a bed that has not fruited.

One is apt to get bewildered if he takes up a catalogue of strawberry plants. He will hardly know which to choose. They are all very highly recommended and very productive. The most sensible thing for the grower to do will be to find out the varieties that will do best in his soil and locality and the distance he will have to ship them to market. It is best to clip all the bloom off the first season.

Cultivation is a very important matter and should be done often and thoroughly so as to get a good stand of plants. Run the cultivator between the rows not less than once a week. A little oftener would be better and have the plants hoed around as often as the cultivator is run. Never let the weeds get a start. I would not cultivate too late in the season. Let the ground get a little firm before the frost comes. Put on a light mulch to protect plants from frosts. In the spring the mulch can be placed between the rows which will keep the weeds down and hold the moisture. Pull out by hand the weeds that are around the plants in the spring. By using the hoe, more or less of the roots get cut, thereby lessening the crop.

How much money can be made from an acre of strawberries? A good deal depends on the man who is running the business.

Every once in a while

we hear of record crops, \$1,000 from an acre, and so on. This may be quite true. A few dollars extra wisely applied will bring wonderful results. We will make a rough estimate of what we might expect from an acre. Say 250 crates at \$2.25, gives a return of \$562.50. Expenses to come off this as follows: plowing, \$4.50; discing, harrowing and smoothing, \$2; plants \$30; planting, \$10; cultivating, \$40; mulch, \$5; rent of land, \$20; packages and picking, \$140; making total expenses, \$251.50. This would leave a net profit of \$311. With the extra care that I have spoken of, another hundred dollars could



SMALL FRUIT BUSHES GROWING BETWEEN ORCHARD TREES

In the farmer's orchard bush fruits can be grown between the trees and thereby save space. Have the rows straight so that they can be cultivated easily with a horse. Photograph taken in orchard of A. B. Sherrington, Walkerton, Ont.

some root crop the previous year. Before planting have the ground manured with barn yard manure. The following winter plow the ground. Then in the spring thoroughly disc it and keep it well harrowed till the weather is suitable for planting. Take a roller or anything that will smooth the ground and mark off the rows, say, three feet apart. Some use a marker for marking the lines to plant along and others use a line. The important thing is to have the rows as straight as possible. For planting I like a small spade made for the purpose. Have the space of rows three feet apart and place plants