

SMALL FRUITS FOR THE CANNERIES

FRUIT growers well know the difference in quality of different varieties of the same fruit. In berries this is especially noticeable. The tendency, however, with most growers is to buy the plants which they believe will produce the largest berry in the greatest quantity. This may seem plausible, but although size and quality are desirable features in a fruit the quality should be the special characteristic sought.

"The man who is likely to buy the fruit," said Mr. Wellington Boulter, of Picton, to a representative of The Canadian Horticulturist who visited his canning factory, "should be counselled every time by a grower before he purchases his fruit-bushes or trees. There are many varieties of the different fruits which all go to mush when canned. These varieties do not ship well. The tree agent sells to make money, but the

grower also buys to make money. Therefore, he should have only the desirable and saleable sorts. The Cuthbert raspberry is the best. We often pay six cents per box for them when Schaffer only brings four cents. In strawberries we have paid one cent per box more for the Wilson than for other varieties. It is not as large as many of the others, but it is firm and purple or bright red in the centre, and it is quality that counts.

"In every case," continued Mr. Boulter, "the demand is the first thing to be considered. The fine arguments of fruit-tree sellers who claim certain varieties are the best simply because they want to get rid of their stock should not influence the buyer. The man who buys the product should be consulted and the recommendations of the agent ought not to be given too much weight."

White Grubs in Strawberry Plants

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Last season I planted about 200 strawberry plants. They were not strong and many wilted. This season they have practically all died. On examination of the roots I found a large white grub, which no doubt accounts for the death of the plants. What can be done to exterminate the pests from the soil? Will it be safe to set out new plants in the same soil this season?—(W. R. Wonham, Richelieu Village, Que.)

These large white grubs are the larvæ of some kind of "June bugs" (some species of *Lachnosterna*), which live in the ground and feed upon decaying vegetable matter, especially barnyard manure. So far as replanting this same ground with strawberries this season is concerned I should advise strongly against it if there is any other land available. The particular "grubs" which have caused the damage this year will probably have changed to adult insects, but there will in all likelihood be a new crop ready to attack new plants.

As to ridding the land of these pests I would suggest fall plowing late in the sea-

son so as to throw up the grubs and expose them to the action of the weather. The object of doing the plowing late is of course to allow the insects no opportunity to readjust themselves for the winter.

Next spring I would use salty fertilizers, either wood ashes or muriate of potash, and if the soil needs nitrogen use nitrate of soda to furnish that, and lastly bone meal or some phosphate. In applying such fertilizers it is better to put on the entire lot at one time, as this makes stronger solutions in the soil water, which is unfavorable to the insect life of the soil or sometimes even deadly. If the land were treated in this way it should be perfectly safe to set strawberry plants on it in the spring, but I should consider it a very risky thing to reset this season.

Bulbous plants become sickly after being over fed. Starvation is the only remedy. Put them away to rest and merely give sufficient water to prevent total drying.—(A. J. Frost, Preston avenue, Toronto.)