

HARDY BUSH FRUITS FOR THE WESTERN FARMSTEAD

HOW TO GROW RASPBERRIES, CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES

BY

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Small fruits have many advantages which should recommend them to every farmer. They are perfectly hardy; they need a minimum amount of care; they are productive; they ripen before any other fruit is on the market and the season lasts a long while.

For adding to the home-like aspect of the farmstead, these fruit-bearing shrubs are unrivalled. They are a source of pleasure and gratification to the farmer, and furnish the boys and girls with many interesting problems in horticulture and nature study. The housewife knows their value as an addition to her larder.

RASPBERRY CULTURE.

The raspberry is the most popular small fruit that we have and should be more widely cultivated. Our cultivated kinds have originated from the wild species that we find in great abundance in the bush country throughout this continent. Who does not remember the sunny July afternoons, and the scramble for wild fruit in the nearest grove?

Soil and Location.—Raspberry patches, as well as other cultivated fruits, should be well sheltered on the north and west if possible. Rich well-drained loam is the best soil for red raspberries. The purple and black-cap raspberries need a lighter soil—sandy loam is good. Clay loam is too cold for them.

Propagation.—Most red raspberries propagate by “suckers” from the root. These can be dug up and planted about four inches deep in September of the same year. Cut back to the ground when planting. A covering of straw is good for the winter. The black-caps propagate by tip-layers, i.e., the long, slender canes bend over and the tips take root. A shovelful of earth should be thrown on the tip to help it in rooting. In the fall the new plant is cut away from the parent, with a foot or so of the old cane standing up. A cover of straw is good for the winter. These are planted in the spring about two inches deep.

Planting.—A “continuous row” with plants set out three feet apart is the best for black-caps. The rows should be eight feet apart. For the reds, the chequered hill system is the best, where the plants are set out six feet apart each way. Both methods may be used interchangeably. The first gives better protection against wind, less work in staking and trellising, less evaporation from the soil, less work in covering for winter and more plants per acre. The latter method gives stronger canes, better fruit, more easily picked, less danger from disease and more opportunity for thorough weeding with one-horse cultivator.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

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