

Good fruit brings a high figure at retail in the Old Country markets. I have seen apples on show for sale at retail at a guinea a box and at one franc each.

We need at St. Thomas a pre-cooling and shipping depot for our fruit. With such a warehouse, the value of our whole crop would be increased but especially our early apples. If we could pick our fruit in season and take it to such a depot immediately, where it could be properly cooled, packed and shipped, we could save an immense waste in our crop.

Success with Strawberries

One of the most successful growers of strawberries in Canada, is Mr. James E. Johnson, of Simcoe, Ont., and his methods as described by him at the short course in fruit growing held in Guelph last winter, were listened to with great eagerness.

Last year Mr. Johnson harvested from ten acres about 84,000 baskets of berries. This he considered to be a small crop, claiming that about 10,000 baskets an acre is a good average crop.

The main requisite to success is a thorough knowledge of the business and of the habits of the plant. A wide knowledge of the methods in use by the best growers is of the greatest aid to the beginner. Mr. Johnson's plantation is partly on sand and partly on clay.

Plant only the best plants to be had, was Mr. Johnson's advice. Do not take plants from the outside of the row. Dig the whole row and reject all small plants.

The rows are made forty-two inches apart, with plants set three feet apart in the row. Thus horse-cultivation can be kept up both ways for a considerable length of time. The ground is marked both ways by means of markers. The plants are set at the intersection of the marks. Cultivation is kept up once or twice a week regularly for the first season.

In growing the matted row, which is the method followed, it is necessary to place them by hand in their proper place. The plants are not allowed to develop fresh runners as all the strength of the young plant is needed in order to establish it. When the placing of the runners commences, cultivation one way ceases.

Mulching in winter is always practised with straw or very coarse manure. Last year the wind blew the straw off and the result was a diminished crop.

Two crops are harvested from each patch. To renew the patch is perhaps one of the greatest problems. Just after harvest has ended the mower is run over the plantation; then the mulch is stirred up with a hay-tedder and fire run over the patch. The ground between the rows is then plowed in such a way as to narrow the rows to about a foot in width. The cultivator and hoe is set to work and the patch made thoroughly clean.

Spraying for the rust is considered by Mr. Johnson to be one of the best means of securing a heavy crop. Heavy applications of spray are made once or twice just before bloom. Thoroughness in this is necessary. Bordeaux mixture is used according to the following formula: Blue stone, six pounds; lime, ten pounds; water, fifty gallons. The spray is applied by a traction spray cart with a set of six nozzles attached, such as is used for potatoes.—D. S.

Marketing Strawberries

J. C. Gilman, Fredericton, N.B.

Boxes and crates for strawberries should be procured early in the season, with extra slats, so that you will not have to stop in a hurried time to hunt up laths and shingles before you can pack your berries, and keep the grocer and custom-



Some New Brunswick Grown Strawberries

Glen Marys last year on farm of Mr. J. C. Gilman, near Fredericton.

ers waiting while makeshifts are brought into use.

Different growers have different methods at picking time; most, however, use what is called a stand, a field basket or picker's basket, which in most cases is simply a shallow box with four legs, three or four inches long, and a handle made out of a barrel hoop, or anything suitable for that purpose. These picker's stands are made just large enough to hold six boxes.

Keeping tally of the pick must be provided for. After trying several ways, each of which had objections, we have found nothing better than a picker's ticket with four rows of figures totalling 100; the top row has ten sixes, the second row ten twos, while each of the other two rows have ten of the figure 1. Write the picker's name on each ticket given out. This will often prevent difficulty arising when tickets are lost and found. A

punch similar to a conductor's punch should be used to punch out the figures to tally with the number of full boxes brought in by each picker.

Have a corn whisk for your pickers to remove the factory dust from the boxes before using. Give beginners a few simple directions. Explain the difference between picking and pulling. Show them that by picking a berry it may be placed in a box without harm, while by pulling the ripe berries are bruised, stems are broken and green berries are wasted.

Pass among your pickers and see that your instructions are being carried out. Some new hands will be apt to damage the fruit at first, but by patiently showing them you may soon find them quite expert. A convenient shelter should be provided, to which the berries may be taken, and packed for market.

The chief methods of disposing of the crop are shipping to some distant point, to be sold on commission, supplying local trade by selling to the grocers and private customers, and sending to the canning factory, the last method for disposing of any surplus. Whichever plan we follow, we should aim to be prompt, to deliver our fruit free from the dust of the street, and in the best possible condition.

Cultivating Raspberries

Charles F. Sprott, Burnaby Lake, B. C.

For cultivating raspberries I find the Planet Jr. cultivator a most useful tool. After the patch has been cleaned up and the land more or less hard from the walking up and down of the pickers, a reversible single horse extension disc harrow is an exceedingly useful tool to get the land in condition for the next year's crop. Care must be taken that neither the disc nor the wheel hoe is allowed to go deep into the soil to cut the roots of the plants. It is not safe to cultivate much deeper than two inches or the cultivator will cut or damage the roots.

The raspberry crop wants a rich soil, and takes more potash than strawberries or potatoes. If profitable returns are required the soil must have sufficient of the three main elements of plant food to make a strong growth of new wood and also a big crop of berries.

There are several large fruit tracts to open up in the Okanagan valley, British Columbia. Areas still unimproved mostly require extensive reservoirs back at headwaters or long flumes or pipe lines to get water on to the land. There is an ample snowfall in the mountains, but the big rush of water is over by July 1. With wise conservation the irrigation supply may be increased for many years.

A cool moist soil is best adapted to the growth of currants. It should tend towards clay rather than sand.