

Our Methods of Cherry Culture

Wm. B. Leavens, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

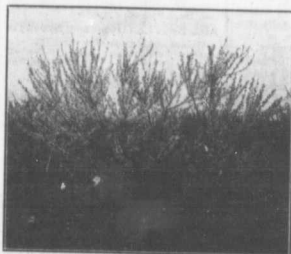
We have plenty of land adapted to the growing of cherries; that is well drained clay limestone. We have also a partiality for the culture of fruit. I first decided to specialize with the cherry and

we now have in the "Leavens Orchards," in which my son is also interested, 22 acres planted to this fruit.

The trees are placed about 20 feet apart, from 100 to 110 trees an acre. We prune the tops to three or four branches so that each may have room to expand without much interference with the growth of the others. We use two-year-old trees for planting, though, I believe, one-year-olds would give equally good results.

CHOICE OF VARIETIES

Owing to climatic conditions in Prince Edward county, in common with other counties on the north shore, we do not attempt growing some of the more tender varieties of sweet cherries in a commercial way. We have a dozen varieties, but for market purposes, they have simmered down to three, the Early Richmond, Montmorency, and English Morella. The three varieties meet the requirements of 95 per cent. of our customers. The Early Richmond when grown upon proper soil and allowed to remain on the tree until really ripe is an excellent cherry. Unfortunately it is often shipped when just turning a light red color and as full of acid as a chemist's bottle. If it had been left a week or ten days longer on the tree it would have been larger, a darker red, richer and riper, and the buyer would have wanted more, instead of regretting his purchase.



A Well Balanced Cherry Tree

This seven-year-old cherry tree, about 12 feet high, is considered by Mr. J. W. Smith, Wentworth Co., Ont., to be about the right shape.

The Montmorency is the standard cherry; no better all-round cherry is to be found. We usually plant two trees of this variety to one of all other varieties. They have size and color, stand shipping well, and ripen at the time they are wanted by the housewife. English Morellas are heart-shaped, nearly black, growing on a drooping, dwarf tree. They are very late and in favorable seasons are a good preserving cherry. The demand for English Morella is limited but they extend the season.

The cultivation of the cherry is similar to that of a well-cared for apple orchard. The diseases of the cherry require the most careful attention. Black Knot must be cut out and

buried as soon as it appears; leaf blight is controlled largely by spraying, though lime-sulphur failed to answer the purpose last year and we may have to go back to Bordeaux for better results. Insecticides also have to be used when required.



Strawberries on a Commercial Scale Involve Labor in Wholesale Quantities

The commercial strawberry plantation has proved itself a profitable proposition with abundance of cheap labor available at picking time, such as Mr. K. Guthrie, Lambton Co., Ont., whose strawberry patch is here illustrated, has secured.

When picking time comes, the aim is, to get careful intelligent people to assist who are interested in getting a beautiful fruit put up in the most attractive form and thus far we have not been disappointed. At a later date we will describe in detail our methods of packing and marketing the product of our 22-acre cherry orchard.

How I Grow Strawberries

J. R. Semple, Colchester Co., N. S.

In selecting a piece of ground for strawberry culture I prefer soil that is naturally or artificially well drained and where water is not likely to remain on the surface in winter, as ice over the plants prove fatal. If the land has grown a crop of roots, and was well manured the previous year so much the better. A second application of coarse manure plowed in in the fall will greatly benefit the land and put it in condition for the setting of the plants the following spring.

After the surface is well pulverized to a sufficient depth with the disc harrow, finishing with the roller or drag, allowing time between the workings for the weed seeds to germinate, the rows are measured three and one-half or four feet apart using stakes the length required set at each end and centre of the rows. Then we run off lightly with the plow. We place the plants two feet apart in the furrow opened with the plow. The planting is done as quickly as possible, so as to get the benefit of the moisture in the freshly turned soil.

After planting we keep the ground well stirred to prevent crusting, and also to upset the little weeds as they germinate. For this work we use the one-horse sculler, garden rake, and hoe, and external vigilance.

As to varieties we have had good success with Brandywine, Wm. Belt, Parsons Beauty, Sample and Clyde, in the order named.

Buy a Spray Pump.—Even if you have no more than a dozen trees it will pay you to buy a spray pump. The barrel spray pump is what the average small fruit grower needs. It will be cheaper to buy the pump and then mount it on a good molasses or vinegar barrel, than to buy one already mounted. Any man handy with tools can easily mount the pump on the barrel himself. It is poor economy to select a cheap pump. A.K.L., Northumberland Co., Ont.

The Question of Thinning

R. M. Winslow, Prov. Horticulturist for B. C.

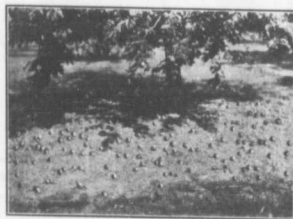
A tree may set more fruit than it can possibly bring to perfection, as the fruit-grower understands perfection. Nature cares nothing for the fruit, except as an aid to produce seed; the orchardist cares nothing for seeds, except as they are necessary to the production of fruit. We wish each tree to carry all the fruit it can bring to commercial perfection, and no more. Hence we thin out the surplus setting.

As soon as the crop can be determined and the supply of labor permits, thinning should be commenced. Start with those varieties which are most advanced. Generally, apples, pears and peaches are thinned when about the size of a hickory-nut, and the thinning should be completed before they are more than double that size. On the various plums the work should be commenced as soon as possible after the dropping, familiarly known as "the June drop," is over.

Apricots, cherries and crab-apples are not usually thinned by hand because the crop which they are to bear is a reasonably certain quantity, and can be controlled to a greater extent than the larger fruits by proper pruning. The Italian prune and the peach plum are not usually thinned, because normally the set of fruit of these varieties is not great enough to warrant the expenditure.

HOW TO THIN

To set rules for thinning is even more difficult than to set rules for pruning. The fruit-grower must determine for himself just how much crop the tree will be able to carry. Much depends on the variety, the age of the tree, its vitality, the soil, cultivation, climate and district. Under equal conditions the Winesap may be thinned to, say, five inches, where the Jonathan would be



After the Thinning

The photograph from which this illustration was taken was snapped by Prof. J. W. Crow, O. A. B. Group, in a British Columbia orchard two years or more ago. The apples, seen on the ground, do not represent one-twentieth of the number that were picked off the tree to give the remaining fruit a chance to develop into a fancy sort. This practice is becoming common in the West, but as yet it is little practiced in the East.

thinned to six or seven and the Northern Spy to eight. In climates such as that of Vancouver Island, where no irrigation is available, and the rainfall averages about half an inch per month during the summer season, or one-fifth that of the average Ontario district, all varieties are thinned to a greater distance than in districts of greater rainfall or where irrigation is available. In this district it is advisable to thin many crops, the whole of which could be carried to advantage under other conditions. Unhealthy or diseased trees should not be expected to grow as

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