

It has been a question to a great many in this Province as to whether grapes can be grown successfully here. By my own experience, and what I have seen since I have been in the Province, I am quite satisfied that throughout the district of New Westminster many of our hardy grapes can be successfully grown. The vine itself grows most luxuriantly and many of the best varieties can be ripened. Two years ago I planted about 300 grape vines of several varieties, and during the past season many of them had fruit on, all of which ripened quite early enough. I had ripe Wordens and Moores Early the latter part of August. Brighton, Delaware Concord and Niagara were all ripe during September, and were of fine appearance and flavor.

I do not suppose every year would see them ripen as early as this, and perhaps some seasons there would be a failure entirely, but I am satisfied that a crop can be depended upon quite often enough to warrant the planting of sufficient vines to supply home requirements, if not for market. In some parts of the upper country, where tomatoes and melons mature so early and grow so fine, it is very probable grapes can, by irrigation, be grown more successfully than in this part of the Province; and I believe there is little doubt that at no distant date British Columbia will, to a great extent, supply her own demands for grapes.

There seems to have been very few vines planted by the early settlers, but those that *were*, if they received any care at all, have made a wonderful growth, and under the conditions produce abundance of fruit, but no system seems to have been undertaken in the care of them.

I will not here attempt to enter into a full description of the various systems of pruning and training the grape, but will confine this paper to a few hints as to varieties and culture.

With the grape it is most important that a thorough and deep cultivation be given the land before planting, and perfect drainage secured. Dig the holes deep, fill up with fine earth and spread the roots out, but do not plant more than eight inches deep. Ten feet apart, each way, is probably the best distance for planting in this country. For the first two years hoe crops may be grown between them, but after this the grapes will want all the ground for themselves. The best kind of a soil is a sandy or gavelly loam. Heavy clay that tends to break is the poorest for grape culture, yet such soil can be made to provide an ample supply for home consumption. But the nature and fertility of the soil is not so important as elevation and a warm, dry location. One reason that elevations are so important is that they offer escape for late frosts in the Spring and early frosts in the Fall.

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