

In such locations the water protects the vines in the winter, and where it does not leave the vines until the last of May or the first of June, it protects the blossom buds against the spring frosts, checks the growth of grass, and at the same time gives to the vines just the fertilizing material they require.

He who desires to enter largely into the cultivation of cranberries should not be satisfied with the borders of a pond, but should look around until he finds a piece of land naturally fitted for the cranberry, and thus avoid heavy and constant expenses. When such location is found it will be a meadow with a peat bottom or never-failing stream of water flowing through it; the land so situated that it can be covered with water in a few hours at any season of the year, and kept covered at least two feet deep from December to May; also within a short distance of a sand hill.

When a piece of land of this description can be found it is cheap at any price under five hundred dollars per acre, and even at five hundred dollars per acre it will pay a very large profit if set with cranberries. In preparing the land it is best to remove the sod down to the peat, which in most locations will be worth more for manure than the cost of removal. The land should then be covered with at least four inches of sand; this can be done best and cheapest in the winter when the ground is frozen and the work of the men and teams is not so pressing. The vines should be set in May, as soon as the weather begins to be warm. If the water can be brought to within an inch of the top of the sand the vines can be set with greater ease and will be much more likely to live. Whatever may be said to the contrary, we believe it is always best to set vines that have roots. We have seen plantations set with vines that had been run through a hay cutter, under the direction of one who believed the tops were as good as the roots, but the result was a complete failure. The vines do best to set them in single roots, being first entirely freed from grass. The distance apart should not be over six inches each way. If the water is just the right height, the vines can be scattered over the sand and the roots pressed in with the fingers. Never set in rows two or three feet apart, for by so doing the vines will always be uneven, because by the time the ground is covered between the rows, the vines in the rows become old, with many dead vines; but if the vines are set all over the ground, by the second or third year the ground will be well and evenly covered with young vigorous vines.

There is a worm similar to the plum curculio which sometimes attacks the young fruit that grows upon land that cannot be kept covered with water during the winter. As the perfect insect winters near the surface of the ground the water probably destroys it.

It is very important to keep the weeds and grass out the first two or three years; after that if the land is well adapted to the fruit but little attention will be required, except to keep the land flowed at the proper time. As the weeds and grass must all be picked out by hand; the first year requires considerable time, and the second year will require more time than the crop will be worth, but it pays in the end to keep the vines entirely free from both weeds and grass.