

The Canadian Horticulturist

Vol. XXXV

APRIL, 1912

No. 4

Small Fruits in the Orchard

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THE growing of small fruits in the orchard is a question much discussed by fruit growers who desire to get a return from their land occupied by an orchard, before that orchard will return a dividend to them. In the case of a peach orchard it is at least the third year, in most cases the fourth year, and in some the fifth year, before a return is given above the outlay for that year. In the apple orchard it is proportionately longer. The age at which any fruit tree comes into profitable bearing depends first on the years it requires to bring it into bearing, which varies considerably among the different classes of fruit, and also among the varieties, and second on the care and treatment which has been given to the trees. We find that a period of from three to eight, and in some cases more years, may elapse before we can expect to get a profit from the orchard. It, therefore, becomes desirable to many fruit growers to endeavor to get a return from this land set to orchard during the interval required by the orchard to come into profitable bearing. This return may be secured by planting small fruits or some other crop between the tree rows.

Let me here say that it is the practice among some of the best orchardists of this country, but more particularly of the country to the south of us, to leave the land planted to fruit trees entirely devoted to the trees so planted. The reasons for this are these: that when the orchard is not inter-planted with small fruits or other crops the orchard may be given the very best care and treatment, which usually is not, and cannot readily be given in an orchard inter-planted. The orchard, by the better care and treatment thus given, can be brought into bearing earlier, and will be a more profitable orchard in every way. Thus the greater returns from the orchard in the end will, in most cases, more than offset the returns that might have been obtained by the intercropping. No matter what is planted as an intercrop, it will take from the land much of its fertility and will not leave it in as good a condition as it might otherwise be in. On the other hand, some men will give better care to an orchard so inter-planted, as the second crop will require the attention that might not otherwise be given if

there was not some revenue coming in from the land.

DO NOT CROWD THE TREES

In interplanting an orchard great care should be taken not to crowd the grow-



Blossoms off, Calyxes Open, Ready to Spray

When spraying to prevent the ravages of the codling moth, the object should be to deposit poison inside the calyx, which, as the apple grows, closes and forms the "blossom" of the mature apple. This poison catches the codling worm as it starts to eat its way into the apple. It is important to make the spray application at the stage of the blossom as here shown, otherwise the application will be useless in combating the codling moth.

ing trees. It should be remembered that the trees at the close of the season will be much larger than they were at the beginning, and what may seem sufficient room for them early in the spring, before growth begins, may leave them later in the summer badly crowded and interfering with the other crop. The first year at least four feet on all sides of the trees should be left clear and where small fruits are planted a greater distance should be left; for strawberries five feet, raspberries and bush fruits, six to eight feet or more.

Of the small fruits which are very often planted in the orchard, the strawberry is one of the best to plant, because

they seldom occupy the land for more than three years and usually for only two years; and after that, unless the trees are slow growing or very far apart it is well to leave the land to the trees. In planting strawberries, if the tree rows are from eighteen to twenty feet apart, three rows of strawberries can be planted between the tree rows, leaving the rows of strawberries four feet apart and five to six feet from the tree row. Some growers will crowd in four rows when the trees are the above distance apart, and then very often the trees will suffer, especially the second year, from giving the berries the proper cultivation and in harvesting the crop, so that the fourth row would be much better if left out. If the strawberry plantation is left for a second crop in the third year, it will require quite a lot of cultivation late in the season of the second year, and during this time there should be very little cultivation given close to the trees as it may cause the trees to continue to grow late in the season.

OTHER SMALL FRUITS

Where currants or gooseberries are grown, two rows are sufficient to plant between the tree rows, when the tree rows are from eighteen to twenty feet apart, as these bush fruits will occupy the land for a considerable time, and do not give much return before the third season. Thus, if a third or fourth row is planted, by the time they are in bearing, the trees will be encroaching on them, and both will suffer. Some bushes can be planted in the tree rows but here as elsewhere the trees should be the first consideration.

Where raspberries or blackberries are grown, only one row can be recommended to be planted where the trees are the former distance, eighteen to twenty feet apart. Many growers will plant more, and crowd the trees, when interplanting, but if they will consider what the orchard and bush fruits will be like in a few years in the future they would allow plenty of room for their trees, as they are to be the main crop and give the chief reward for the money and effort expended.

Another thing too often neglected is the removal of the bush fruits as soon as the space is required by the trees. It is a mistake to leave the bush fruits in the