

In this orchard there are several varieties of peach trees planted. Some of them are Alexander, Admiral Dewey, Crosby, Fitzgerald, Early Crawford, Triumph and Elberta. These all show better growth than trees on the flat land.—F. Aitken, Peachland, B.C.

Preparing Land for Planting

Various methods of preparing land for planting fruit trees are practised. Some growers commence the preparation of the soil one or two years in advance while others plant almost in sod. Readers of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST are asked to discuss this question through these columns, giving their experiences and stating reasons why they would advise others to follow their practice. Growers in all the provinces are invited to contribute their views. The following letter was received recently from Mr. W. E. Corman, Stoney Creek, Ont.;

"In the first place, I subsoil the soil both ways fifteen inches deep and then cover the soil with refuse lime and ashes from the kilns at the rate of three tons to the acre. This material costs us thirty to forty cents a load of three tons. We sow it from the waggon with a shovel. After cultivating it in, the land is rolled and is then in good shape for planting."

Lombardy Poplars

We are thinking of planting Lombardy poplars and would like to know any argument against their use; also notes as to planting. Our prevailing wind blows in summer from the south. We are thinking about planting the trees along the south fence of the orchard.—F.O.C., Slocan, B.C.

The Lombardy poplar makes a very good wind break as the trees grow tall, and as the branches are thick, they afford considerable protection. In some parts of the country poplar becomes diseased and is also injured by winter, which are against the use of this tree where these occur. If the trees were set out about twelve feet apart in a single row it would be a good distance. The poplar is one of the easiest trees to get established so that no special preparation of the soil is necessary.—W. T. Macoun.

Growing Strawberries in Alberta

James Chegwin, Leduc, Alberta

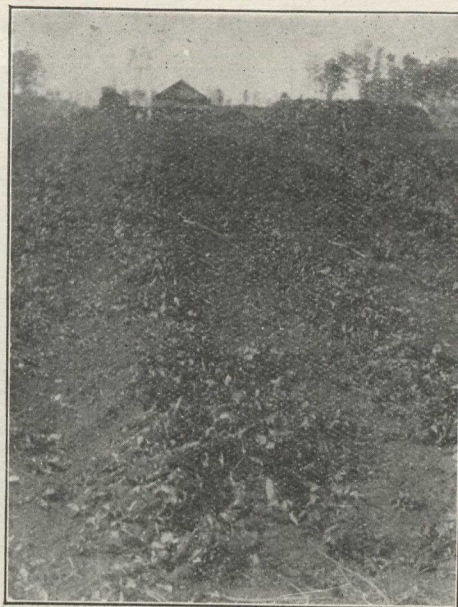
THREE years ago, I came to Alberta from Ontario where I had grown strawberries for over forty years. In these three years, I have given them

one said would kill my first bloom, leaving two rows uncovered as an experiment. To my surprise, that June frost never came.

On the uncovered rows I had a good crop of berries. The balance of the patch I kept covered until I thought all danger of frost was past. They came out in bloom fine and I thought I would have a splendid crop as the ones I had uncovered first were forming fruit. Just then came nine days of successive rain. It rained hard and there was no sunshine; consequently, the pollen was washed off the bloom and the fruit did not come to perfection. Much of the fruit was ill-shaped.

I find that the Williams berry does not fertilize here as well as in Ontario. There, it does well planted alone, but here it is better if another staminate variety that is a heavier pollenizer is planted with it, if the two bloom about the time. On the two rows that I had left uncovered, the fruit had set before the rain came. The next spring, I brought from Ontario nine other varieties and from Michigan, eleven varieties. I had very poor luck with all of those as they seemed to heat. With many of the varieties I did not get more than fifteen per cent. of the plants to grow. I got enough, however, to test them all and have picked about twelve varieties as most suitable for this country. All of these are staminate kinds, as I do not think the pistillate varieties will do as well here as there are so few bees in the country to carry the pollen and so much wet weather at blooming time. This year I had a good crop of berries as fine as any that I ever got off the same varieties in Ontario. I am satisfied that strawberries can be grown to perfection in Alberta, if given proper care and attention.

Gravelly and somewhat stony soils, fairly rich in plant food, are excellent for apple growing. The gravel and small stones assist in the drainage.



A Strawberry Plantation in Alberta

On farm of Mr. Jas. Chegwin, Leduc. In a later issue Mr. Chegwin's methods of cultivation will be described.

a trial and my hopes of success have been fully realized.

In May of the first year, I planted about 8,000 Williams plants. Some of the largest plants were allowed to bear fruit, which is contrary to my usual custom, as I usually cut off all the bloom the first year, but the plants grew so well that I thought I might risk getting some fruit off of them for our own use. That season we picked about ninety quarts of fine berries.

The plants were covered with straw as soon as the first hard frost came and were not uncovered until time to dig the plants for sale the next spring. All came through the winter in good shape. I uncovered the rows only as I wanted to dig them, covering the ones left to protect them from the June frost which every



The Grand Display of Fruit made by the St. Catharines Cold Storage Company at the Niagara District Horticultural Exhibition

This exhibit was awarded a Wilder silver medal by the American Pomological Society. It consisted of 36 boxes of apples, 78 boxes of pears, 75 boxes of peaches, 18 boxes of plums (in four-box trays), and 35 boxes of tomatoes. These were all packed in cases, western style, and were grown by members of the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co. This company has sent so far this season 125 cars of mixed fruits in baskets and boxes to the West, and expects to reach 150 by the end of the season.