

HORTICULTURE

Co-operative Experiments with Fruit

"The most promising feature of the work in connection with the co-operative testing of fruits through the medium of the Experimental Unit is that it has introduced fruit growing where it had not been exemplified before," said Prof. H. L. Hutt, at the meeting of the Experimental Unit held at Guelph last week. "This is especially true in northern districts. Eight hundred and seventy-six experimenters conducted this work during the past year. In all, some 6,750 different experimenters have carried on experiments in previous years with plants, trees, vines, etc. Some failures were reported, some had moved, but about 5,000 experimenters were still carrying on this co-operative work of testing."

"The best varieties of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, grapes and apples have been used in this co-operative testing. The bulletins of instruction sent out with the experiments have been very helpful to new beginners as well as assistance to all old growers. Over 400 varieties of strawberries have been tested at the O. A. C. and over 1,000 unnamed varieties. It is a difficult matter to find out the best strawberry. In looking over the list of varieties sent out in previous years, when it was thought that the four leading varieties had been sent out each time, it was found that 16 different varieties had been sent out. This is proof of the constant experimentation needed with strawberries in order to keep abreast with the times. The past season, Splendid proved to be the best early variety, and Ruby the best for the main crop. Parent's Beauty and Fountain made up the four varieties sent out. Some remarks sent in by experimenters were very much to the point. One man said: 'It is hard to get ground too rich for strawberries.' Another, 'Don't allow them to mat too thickly.' Others, 'never set on newly-broken land for while grubs are sure to s.d. try them.'"

"In raspberries, Marlboro, Cuthbert, Columbian and Golden Queen constituted the list of varieties. Marlboro is the best early, Cuthbert the main crop, Columbian, (purple cane) and Golden Queen were very desirable table varieties. With black raspberries or black caps, Gregg, Kansas, Palmer and Older were experimented with. Older is one of the hardiest varieties and probably the most desirable. In blackberries or thimbleberries, the varieties were Agawan, Eldorado, Kittatinny and Snyder. Thimbleberries are probably less generally grown than other berries, they being very tender. Kittatinny continues to be the favorite variety."

"Grapes were sent out three years ago for the first time. Previously grapes had only been grown in the southern sections of the province. As grapes can be grown over a wide latitude, work was taken up in connection with them in order to introduce them into northern sections. Six varieties were sent out for the southern sections and six for the northern. Experimenters have reported the plants doing well. It is hoped to have reports of their fruiting next year."

"Experimental work in apples also was undertaken three years ago," continued Professor Hutt. "Twelve hundred and nineteen experimenters have taken up the work in apples. As apple trees can be sent safely through the mails, the work has proven very successful. It has been helpful in northern districts. There has been much waste of money in those regions in planting the tender varieties. Dis-

tinuation is made between northern and southern districts," the line being roughly speaking, from Collingwood to Kingston. To the southern district, Primrose, Gravenstein, McIntosh, Blenheim, Greening and Northern Spy were the varieties sent out. For the northern parts, Yellow Transparent, Duchess, Wealthy, McIntosh, Scott's Winter and Hyslop Crab were used. Wealthy in this selection being the main winter variety."

"This report is the last of 15 that I shall present," concluded the professor. "The work in horticulture in Ontario has reached the stage where experts are required in every branch. The work at the college has been divided into two parts. In the J. W. Crow, B. S. A. my worthy assistant, will henceforth have charge of the work with fruits. Mr. A. McMeun will have charge of vegetables. I shall retain the work in landscape gardening, including both civic and rural improvement and Mr. Hunt will look after the work in floriculture. It is hoped that much better work will be done than ever before."

Fruit Growing

Some general remarks on fruit growing were made by Mr. A. B. Cutting of The Canadian Dairyman's and Farming World, Peterboro, at a Farmers' Institute meeting held at Lakeshield, Ont., last week. He pointed out that this publication is anxious to aid the farmer in the care of his orchard as well as in general farming and dairying. Mr. Cutting said that most of the orchards in the county could be made to give three or four times the present profits by giving them more attention in the matters of cultivation, fertilizing, pruning and spraying. There are too many orchards in soil which rob the trees of moisture and plant food and which harbors insects and vermin. Intelligent and regular pruning would do much to bring these orchards into a greater state of productivity. Spraying is the exception and not the rule in this county. This is essential to the production of fruit of high quality. Collaring moth, bud moth, oyster shell scale and many other insects are ruining many of the trees. Apple scab and other fungous diseases also are prevalent. While each orchard post requires special treatment at a particular time, most of them can be controlled by spraying four times with Bordeaux mixture and Paris green: first, in spring before the buds begin to swell; second, when the buds begin to break open; third, immediately after the blossoms fall; fourth, 10 days to two weeks later.

In reply to a question asking for the best varieties of red raspberries, Mr. Cutting recommended Marlboro for early, Cuthbert and Herbert for general crop, the latter being particularly valuable for local markets. In response to a similar question on strawberries, the speaker stated that there is no best variety. Some standard sorts do well in some localities and not in others. Owing to local conditions, some varieties that yield well on one farm often prove of little value on farms adjoining. Williams is the great commercial berry of the province. Clyde is excellent for light soils and dry seasons. Warfield is one of the best for canning but requires moist ground. There are hundreds of varieties. When selecting the farmer should choose those that have done best in his own neighborhood with conditions similar to his own.

Co-operative Experiments with Vegetables

At the Experimental Unit in Guelph last week, Prof. H. L. Hutt said that the co-operative work in vegetables in connection with the Experimental Unit began two years ago. The work was organized largely among the school children of Ontario. Over 300 school children conducted experiments this year with beets, carrots, onions, early and late tomatoes and lettuce. The varieties of beets sent out were the Detroit, Eclipse and Early Monarch. Reports were received from 190 experimenters, all of which favored the Detroit. It is a smooth round, small beet and is one of the best for table use.

Seventy reports were received from experimenters as to carrots. Chantenay was the favorite variety. In onions, 150 reports were received from successful experimenters. Prize-taker was the favorite in size, though Yellow Danvers was the better winter keeper.

The Black-seeded Simpson stood first in lettuce; Handsome, second. These two are probably the best varieties. Professor Hutt remarked that the habit of planting lettuce in a bed is not a good one. When planted in rows and thinned to a foot apart, one obtains the best possible quality and lettuce that is worth growing.

The varieties of tomatoes sent out were Greater Baltimore, Stone and Success. The past season was one of the best on record for tomatoes. All varieties did well. The Earliana is still the best early variety and was probably the most favorite variety. Wealthy stood second. For a late variety, Success proved very popular. "It is well to spread out the vines as soon as they break over," said the professor. "In this way, the tomatoes are nearer the ground and ripen much

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