

# The Canadian Horticulturist

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## Money in Growing Strawberries

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THERE are few lines of legitimate enterprise that offer anything like so great an opportunity to the man or woman of moderate means seeking an independent livelihood as does the growing of strawberries for market. The demand for first-class strawberries never is supplied, and prices for high-grade fruit are almost universally high both in Canada and the United States, offering a fine inducement to enterprising folk to engage in the business.

It is difficult to believe, sometimes, the wonderful things that are being done by strawberry growers, not in isolated cases, but in hundreds of cases. Great results have been achieved by growers in Canada. As I am more familiar with those of the United States, however, I shall mention some of them in particular. Note, for instance, the experience of Mr. G. M. Hawley, of La Mesa, Cal., who, under date of September 10, 1907, relates his experience for the season. From two acres of plants had been taken up to the date named for the season, \$2,596, and the plants were still yielding at the rate of \$60 a week.

### GOOD CARE GIVES BIG MONEY

Mr. Henry Clute, of Hunt, N.Y., engaged for the first time in strawberry growing in 1906, when he set out an acre of plants. He took excellent care of this acre, and in 1907 he received, in actual cash, \$888.17 from this first acre of plants that he had grown; and it is estimated that fully another hundred dollars' worth were grown on this acre which were given away, or consumed upon the place by Mr. Clute's family and the people engaged in gathering the fruit. This case indicates what a novice may do in strawberry culture. Mr. Clute's experience is not an unusual one. If a man has a little plain common sense, is willing to work and intelligently care for the plants, he need have no fear but that he will succeed in strawberry growing.

Mr. John Rucker, of Boston, N.Y., gathered more than 9,000 quarts of berries from a single acre in 1907, but as he sold them in Buffalo on commission, he received a little less than ten cents a quart, so that his total cash income from the acre was slightly under \$900. Mr.

H. B. Steward, of Myrtle Point, Ore., took \$1,500 in the season of 1907 from an acre; Mr. James Calder, of Clayton, N.Y., 1,000 plants, \$310; Mr. Columbus Knight, of Falmouth, Me., \$1,000 an acre; Mr. M. F. H. Smeltzer, of Van Buren, Ark., made \$1,079 from an acre in 1907; Mrs. Mary Malpass, of Ingersoll, Ont., sold \$560 worth of strawberries from an acre last season.

### A BUSINESS FOR WOMEN

Strawberry growing is distinctly a line of work fitted for womankind. Some of

herself with dignity and comparative ease by successfully conducting a small strawberry farm. Hundreds of other women are engaged successfully in the work.

### A SAFE AND SURE CROP

It may be said, in behalf of this line of horticulture, that it is one of the safest and surest known. In the fall of 1906, when the heavy early frosts destroyed vineyards and peach orchards, and even killed out many hardy apple trees, over a large section of the north central states, comparatively little damage was suffered by the strawberry. So hardy that it grows upon Alpine heights, pushing up its green leaves in the spring-time through the snows upon the lofty summits of the Swiss mountains, so accustomed to the tropic suns that it yields from early spring until late fall in Cuba and in other tropical lands—the universality of the strawberry plant is greater, perhaps, than any other known fruit. It will thrive and produce large crops of fine berries on any soil that will grow corn or potatoes. Set these plants in the spring of one year and they will yield an abundant harvest in the early summer of the following year—a crop that will bring a sum sufficient to put the grower upon his feet financially where, had he set out an orchard of any kind, he would be able to count upon no income worthy of mention under five years, even though all the circumstances were most favorable.

To the man who seeks an independent living and whose means are limited, no other line of enterprise offers so great advantages as strawberry production. One need not go to the Pacific Coast or to the Gulf regions, or to any other particular place in order to get a start. Whether a citizen of Canada or the United States, he may rent an acre or two near his own home, and begin at once to do business. There never has been on the markets of this country a half-supply of high-quality fruit that commands top prices.

There is a limitless field open to the man who will grow big red strawberries, well-flavored and firm, no matter where he may be located. Plant this spring.

### Kind Words

Orchardists in every part of Canada should subscribe to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. The fruit raiser who can take this practical and progressive monthly magazine without making more from the reading of its fruitful pages than the cost of a year's subscription (sixty cents) must be a very dull scholar. The book is full of timely, helpful, practical information, on fruit, flower and vegetable culture. Its growth of circulation is a criterion of its merits and popularity. February, 1907's, circulation was 5,520 copies. February, 1908, it was 7,824, or an increase of over 2,300 copies in a single year—a record of which any publisher should feel justifiably proud. If you have an acre of orchard, you want this excellent publication.—*Boxmanville Statesman*.

the most encouraging experiences it has been my pleasure to know about, have been those of women strawberry growers. They usually press the children into service, and thus succeed in handling comparatively large areas at a trifling outlay for manual assistance. One woman whose letter I have had the privilege of reading, wrote from Santa Cruz, Cal., that in 1907 she took from one-tenth of an acre of strawberries, \$210 in cash. At Woodside, Minn., is a young woman of culture who supports