

The best time to plant currants is in the fall of the year, as it is difficult to get them in the ground early enough in spring-time. Plant six by five feet apart and be sure that the plants are set deep enough and the earth well tramped around the young roots. Immediately after planting, cultivate the soil to form a light mulch on top. Cultivation will be necessary throughout the summer, giving enough cultivation to maintain a light mulch on the soil all through the season.

When the plantation comes into bearing, dressings of manure will be necessary, varying from once a year to once every other year. It is seldom that the soil for currants is kept too rich.

The pruning treatment for black currants and red currants differs somewhat. The black currant produces its crop of fruit on wood of the *previous* season's growth, while the red and the white currants produce their fruit on wood that is two years old or more. In the case of black currants then it is necessary to leave a liberal supply of one-year old wood, while the older growths may be removed. With red or white currants, however, only wood that is over three years of age should be removed, leaving all the one- two- and three-year wood to bear fruit.

Currants are readily propagated by cuttings. For this purpose well ripened, new shoots are used. They should be cut early in the autumn and may be planted immediately, using cuttings of 8 to 10 inches in length, with a square cut at the bottom just below a good bud, and with at least a half inch of wood beyond the top bud. If impossible to plant in the autumn, they may be carried through the winter by tying them in bundles and burying them upside down in light, well-drained soil. Five or six inches of soil will be required to cover the cuttings if heeled in outside over winter. If kept indoors, place in a cool cellar and bury in moist sand. When planting, put in nursery rows, with rows 3 feet apart and plants 6 inches apart in the rows. Plant in a deep trench so that most of the cutting is below the ground, leaving only the two top buds, at most, showing. These cuttings should be sufficiently rooted by the end of the first season, so that they may be lifted and planted in permanent positions. If cuttings are planted in the autumn in a wet climate, it is well to cover the rows with a few inches of soil, which should be raked off in early spring.

VARIETIES RECOMMENDED.

Red.—Red Dutch, Greenfield, London Red, Red Grape, Perfection in favoured districts.

White.—White Cherry.

Black.—Boskoop Giant, Victoria Black, Black Chamaelon.

For the Prairie Provinces.—Red.—Raby Castle, Stewards, Red Dutch.

White.—White Grape, White Dutch.

Black.—Beauty, Naples, Lee's Prolific, Saunders, Victoria.

BLACKBERRIES.

The blackberry is not what may be termed a hardy fruit, hence is not recommended for commercial planting in any but the mild districts.

Choose a soil which is retentive of moisture and not too rich in nitrogenous-material. Good clay loam is excellent in most cases and an application of well rotted manure will, usually, be found beneficial at the start.

Plant blackberries in the spring, as early as it is possible to properly work the land into condition. Set in rows 8 feet apart with bushes 3 feet apart in the rows. Constant and thorough cultivation will be necessary throughout the first season. When the plants have attained two feet in height they should be pinched back which will cause them to throw out laterals instead of growing to too great a height. In the autumn all canes but three or four of the strongest should be cut out.

During the second season pinch back all new shoots as soon as they reach two feet in height. This will require several trips through the plantation. This year five or six of the strongest canes may be left, removing all others. The removal of all canes that have borne fruit and also all but five or six of the strongest new ones will constitute the annual pruning after the second year. This is best done in early autumn. The laterals are cut back in the spring, the amount of heading back depending upon