

PLANTING, CULTIVATING AND PRUNING.

In field culture, suckering varieties, red, purple and yellow, should be planted in rows six to seven feet apart, and three feet apart in the row. The rows should be accurately measured and indicated by stakes previous to planting. The work of planting is much facilitated by carefully opening with a plough a furrow 4 or 5 inches deep in the line of the row for the reception of the plants. Two plants may be set in a hill, using a hoe to fill in the soil, which should be carefully compacted. Setting out two shoots to begin with, ensures a much better and even growth in the whole field, than if a single cane is used in each case, and fewer failures will result if this plan is adopted. The cultivator, which should be started as soon as the planting is done, will effectually complete the filling of the furrow.

Black caps may be planted in rows in the same way. They are also successfully grown by planting in hills four or five feet apart each way. This method allows of very thorough cultivation by horse power, thus greatly lessening the amount of hand labour.

The canes of black raspberries should be cut back each season when they have reached a height of two, to two and a half feet; unless treated in this way they are difficult to manage. This pinching back causes the plants to grow stocky and to throw out laterals. The laterals may be cut back to a length of 12 to 15 inches in the autumn; but the best plan is to leave them till the following spring when the injured wood, if any, may be removed at the same time. The bearing wood should be removed as soon as the fruiting season is over. Experiments carried on here during the past two years, and still in progress, have not indicated any striking advantage from leaving the removal of the old wood till spring. There is generally more time to attend to this work in early autumn, than during the hurry of spring work.

Clean culture with all fruit crops always pays best. In the case of the raspberry, this is particularly true. Frequent shallow cultivation will keep down weeds, and preserve the moisture of the soil, often lacking during the season of fruit harvesting. A superfluous growth of suckers in the case of red raspberries, may be kept under by the cultivator and the vigor of the canes in the row thereby increased. Satisfactory results are also obtained by some growers, by mulching with straw or coarse manure instead of cultivating. With comparatively limited areas and situated within easy distance of a cheap manure supply, suburban gardeners can by mulching heavily in this way with strawy manure, grow a greater number of plants to the row, and obtain fruit of undiminished size. Some growers mulch the rows of plants only, leaving a strip in the centre of the inter space, which is kept clear of weeds by the horse cultivator. Weeds which appear in the rows are hoed out, or pulled by hand. Under ordinary conditions, when the plants are not thinned to something approaching a hill system, the fruit becomes small and the plants lose vigour.