

# The Best Gooseberries and Largest Yields and Highest Prices Are Bound to Make Salem the World's Gooseberry Center

## GOOSEBERRIES ARE A PROFITABLE CROP, AND ALL FRUIT MEN SHOULD GROW SOME

How Would You Like to Have a Few Acres of Gooseberries Yielding 25,000 Pounds to the Acre and Selling at 5 to 15 Cents a Pound

(By Jesse Huber.)

The gooseberry will do no good in the southern states nor is it profitable as a commercial berry throughout the prairie section west of the Mississippi river. This berry is most prolific in a cool summer climate where the heat of the sun is not sufficiently intense to cause discoloration of the tissue on the exposed side. We have here in the Willamette valley favorable climatic and soil conditions for growing gooseberries profitably on a commercial scale. The soil selected should be of a heavy, moist, yet loamy texture. Drainage is important, as is also soil fertility. A northern exposure is preferable to a southern slope for location of the plants. Good air drainage is important. Low depressions into which fog or damp air is likely to settle should be avoided as such locations are favorable to mildew and leafspot, two of the most troublesome fungous diseases. Commercially speaking, about the only gooseberry found profitable under our conditions is the Oregon Champion. This berry, though running a little small, is in active demand as a jammer and for making jelly and jam. It is also good when used in combination with other fruits in imparting that sprightly gooseberry flavor, now gaining in favor with American consumers. My own experience in growing gooseberries near Salem, while on a limited scale, has been most encouraging. I find the Oregon Champion a sure cropper and a heavy yielder. I have never been troubled with either leafspot or mildew, yet I never used any spray to prevent these diseases. One of the very good features of the Oregon Champion is that this variety is quite resistant to the usual fungous diseases which are so troublesome when other kinds of these berries are grown. The yield on an acre planted to gooseberries, of course, does vary widely. If the plants are set in rows six feet apart and four feet between the plants in the row, the yield may run as high as from 300 to 500 bushels per acre. Four to eight quarts of berries may be taken from individual bushes under good conditions. The thorns are a source of trouble

berries at a price that spells profits to the grower. Last spring the first gooseberries appearing on the public market in Portland sold readily at 15 cents a pound. Even in the height of the season these berries did not fall below 10 cents a pound, or three pounds for 25 cents. Canneries are always in the market for gooseberries at prices that will pay handsome net profits to the growers. The trade is being stimulated by the growing fondness of Americans for gooseberry pie, sauce or other table preparations of this fruit. A favorable feature of the plant is its extreme hardiness. Neither the buds nor branches are affected by freezing temperature. Bushes begin bearing full crops at four to five years old and will continue to yield profitably for 10 years. The bushes need pruning and careful cultivation for best results. Planters intending to grow a succession of small fruits should give careful consideration to the gooseberry. It precedes the strawberry and is out of the way before that fruit needs his attention. It being the first fruit ready for market, the gooseberry assures the fruit grower an income which at that season of the year is usually most welcome.

## CONDENSED SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOSEBERRY AND OTHER SMALL FRUIT GROWERS

(The following is the language of a paper taken from the pamphlet, "Berries and How to Grow Them," published by The Phez Company. Some of the suggestions and directions may be of use to those preparing to set out more gooseberries and other berries.)

**Preparation of Soil**—Do not plant berries or bush fruit on newly broken sod-ground, the best results are obtained when such plantings are made on ground that produces a cultivated crop the year previous; following corn is especially recommended, plowing the stocks well under in the fall, followed by an early spring plowing, discing, and harrowing until well broken down.

**Intercropping**—The growing of crops of beans, potatoes or other small plant vegetables between the rows for the first year is profitable besides keeping the ground in a good state of cultivation. Do not intercrop the second year.

**Tillage**—Practice intensive cultivation, keep the ground free from weed growth. Endeavor to maintain a dust mulch of two to three inches deep during the growing and harvesting season. Plow the rows in the fall as soon as canes have been trained, or pruned, plowing down in spring, followed by discing and harrowing. Precaution should be taken at all times not to work too close to the plant crowns, by so doing the root growth essential to the supplying of needed moisture will be removed. Hand hoe around each crown at least once each season. Irrigation—A practice which is

tended to develop the farms to their full limit—which cannot be done without factories. They must go and grow together; and if they do this there will be a Gibraltar property that go kind of adversity can shake.—Ed.)

not in vogue in the Willamette valley but highly recommended, and at the expense of \$200 to \$500 for a pumping plant, the same will pay for itself in two years' operation, in the way of increased yields. Fertilizer—Bone meal, lime phosphate, hen manure, rotted stable manure and wood ashes applied in the fall before plowing are essential to maintain desired fertility. Cover crops sowed late in the summer and plowed under in the spring are beneficial where soils are deficient in humus. Trellising—All cane and bush fruits should be trellised the second year following summer cultivation, this permits better cultivation and easier access to the plants at harvesting time, also decreasing the loss to the new cane growth, occasioned by pickers tramping on same. Pruning—All cane fruits should be pruned immediately after the crop is harvested, removing brush from the yard and burning same. Bush fruits should be pruned during the winter when they are dormant. Harvesting—Fruits and berries to be used for manufacturing purposes should be fully matured before picking. Do not permit fruit to become over-ripe, which results in too great a shrinkage in transportation. Deliveries should be made at least once every day. General Advice—The better you care for your plantings the better your returns will be. Call on us for further information which will be furnished cheerfully. "Our success is your prosperity." The Phez Company, Salem, Oregon.

## PREVENTIVE OF GUMMOSIS

In Sweet Cherry, Italian Prune or Other Sweet Pitted Fruit Trees

By W. M. Faulkner, Corvallis, Oregon.

All that is necessary to prevent this disease is to apply lime enough to destroy the overbalanced condition of acidity in the soil where the young trees are planted. I have found from many years of demonstration work that this disease comes from no other cause save that of acidity in the soil. Soil may show a very small percentage of acid, yet a small percentage of acid with the agency of the sap bringing it in connection with the sweet substance contained in the wood of the sweet cherry, Italian prune or any other sweet pitted fruit trees, will cause this disease to set up. It often kills the tree. Where we have the greatest amount of sugar in the fruit or wood of the tree there we may look for the greater amount of gummosis.

Note the Sugar prune; see how much quicker it bleeds to death than other varieties that do not contain so much sugar. I travel all over the Willamette valley and have found more Italian prune trees dying from being infected with gummosis than any other one disease. I have found many thousands of sweet cherry trees that have been entirely lost on account of this disease. For the last 10 years I have been demonstrating to prevent this disease by using lime at the time of planting the young trees. Where there has been enough lime applied to subdue the acid in the soil there is no gummosis in the young trees, while I have lost many trees that were planted in the same kind of soil without lime being applied. I will give reasons later why older trees do not suffer like the younger trees do.

## HERE IS A MAN WHO IS ON THE WAY TOWARDS BECOMING THE GOOSEBERRY KING

And He Will Deserve Well of Salem, for Coming to the Assistance of Our Fruit Manufacturing Concerns—Will Put Out Ten More Acres This Year and Ten Next Year

Editor Statesman: Following is a short article about gooseberries in reply to your request:

The Oregon Champion gooseberry is the variety which the buyers require and which yields best in the Willamette valley.

The plants are started by cutting canes or wood from the old plants, year old canes being the best, then cutting these up in lengths about eight inches long and planting in nursery rows, cultivating well so as to get a good growth both on top and roots. The wood is cut while dormant and nurseried in the early spring. The next fall these plants are taken up and planted in the field from five to six feet apart. There is no berries the first season, but the second season they will pay to pick and the third season there will be a good crop. Mildew is about the only enemy the gooseberry has, and it can be controlled by lime sulphur spray, winter solution, while the bushes are dormant and 1-30 just after the little berries are formed generally is sufficient, but if any mildew appears later spray again with 1 to 30 when the berries are half grown.

As I have discarded some of my bushes, I have about an acre in bearing. I got about nine thousand bushels of this crop in 1919 which is about an average yield, although I know of one acre that has yielded eight tons. The yield depends on the care and richness of the soil and the location, and I know of no small

fruit which responds so well to the use of fertilizer as the gooseberry. The price for several years was 2c but in 1918 came up a little and in 1919 I sold for 3-2 cents, but buyers were offering as high as 5c at picking time. The price paid for picking last season was between \$55 and \$60 per hundred pounds.

I have grown a few gooseberries as a side issue and think that a fruit farm is hardly complete without an acre or two, as they bear young. It is the first fruit to be picked in the spring; they do not interfere with any other crop; do not require a great amount of care; brings in some early money for expenses, and the net return means you are practically selling that acre of land each year at a good price.

The average life of a gooseberry bush is from 10 to 15 years, according to care and pruning. There is a good profit in rooting plants just at this time, and the demand for cuttings and plants seems to be greater than the production, the cause of which mainly is Salem's new factories which are creating more competition and demanding more berries. They must have more berries, and we must grow more berries, so therefore, I am planting 10 acres this winter of my own grown plants and expect to plant the same amount next season. —W. Frank Crawford, Salem, Or., Rt. No. 1, Jan. 12, 1920.

## MR. DUNCAN SAYS ADAPTABILITY OF SOIL AND LOCATION SHOULD BE STUDIED

Editor Statesman:

Referring to your request for my experience with gooseberries.

I hesitate to answer for the reason I have not met with the success that others have, with probably less effort, in more favored localities.

Before I give my brief experience, allow me to digress. One of the greatest mistakes that the majority of growers are making all along the line, is the failure to first of all study adaptability. I would emphasize this word ADAPTABILITY as it applies to horticulture in the Willamette valley.

The all important thing is to know in advance, that soil, drainage and thermal conditions are favorable to the prolific production of whatsoever you contemplate planting. We are constantly (and often needlessly) learning by sad experience, planting and tilling with patience and care only to face failure and loss. Because we neglect to avail ourselves of the experience of others.

So closely has grown community interest in horticulture, that serious mistakes and loss from this cause is almost always inexorable. At your elbow is the advice that, if followed, will prevent many mistakes. A two cent stamp will bring you expert advice from the best authorities that any country can boast, addressed to Corvallis. Had I followed this advice I had not set gooseberries on my soil.

I doubt whether any equal area on God's footstool will grow prolifically a greater variety of nature's products adapted to man's wants than the Willamette valley, and the principal reason why this is so, is not its matchless fertility, great as it is, but the wonderful diversity of condition of soil, drainage, thermal, surroundings, etc., that provide a congenial home somewhere for everything in the great catalog of products for which our valley is becoming justly famous.

And now for my experiences:

In 1910 I set 2000 Oregon Champion gooseberries as fillers in young apple orchard; trees were set 28 1/2 feet apart in rows both ways. I set four rows in each space between trees, both ways, and four plants between each tree in line both ways, so that my plants were spaced about five feet eight inches apart in rows both ways. The soil is black loam and had probably been run to wheat since the first voyagers of the Hudson's Bay Co. roamed these prairies and hills in quest of game and pelts.

It lacks something that this plant life requires, and comparing yields with favored localities, has proved a partial failure. The average yield since coming into bearing has been less than two tons; the largest yield, 1917, 8000 pounds. This result after years of painstaking care spells failure in part at least, and why? First of all, hard pan. Not near the

surface so that you can reach it with the plow, but near enough to give a cold winter foothold, and to prevent capillary attraction, so to speak, from bringing up moisture from depths below when most needed in the "good old summer time." In the second place, exposure to spring frost cuts the crop short. The gooseberry blooms early, and this section of the prairie, five miles east and about one mile north of Salem, is one of the coldest spots in the valley. Don't set gooseberries for commercial purposes on ground subject to late spring frosts. Now what I have said on the subject in hand may sound a little "croaky." It is not so intended, but is written with the purpose of warning by my experience, or inexperience if you like, against similar mistake on the part of others.

Let me now sound an optimistic note, if I may. I am convinced by observation and study that no safer and surer crop can be grown in the Willamette valley than the gooseberry if conditions are favorable.

The deep, red, rich soil of the hills surrounding Salem is specially adapted to its perfect development. I have visited some of the fields of Polk county during fruiting season and seen with wonder and amazement the tremendous loads the vines were carrying of large, perfectly developed berries. At that time 2 cents per pound was the maximum price paid by the canners, and I was assured by the growers that returns were highly satisfactory.

At prices prevailing now—well you can imagine the velvet lining that adorns the pockets of some of these "plutes" across the big bridge. The "Oregon Champion" seems to be in greatest favor. So far as I know, it has exclusive favor among commercial growers. The berries are large, the vines strong, vigorous and very prolific. With suitable ground, reasonably free from late spring frosts, you will make no mistake in setting out gooseberries.

Prepare the ground well by plowing deep and thoroughly pulverizing, plant in checked rows not less than six feet apart; six and one-half or even seven feet in some cases might be better. Careful, shallow cultivation, using the dust mulch, should follow; as the vines grow older, pruning, sometimes vigorous, will be required; always cutting out the oldest canes near the ground. Sometimes it is necessary to spray for worms that destroy the foliage, using some of the arsenate preparations. Some seasons mildew may appear. This can be controlled by some of the sulphur preparations. For the past two years I have took chances and left off spraying. I don't advise this course, though I had clean berries. —R. B. Duncan, Salem, Ore., Rt. 7, Jan. 12, 1920.

## HERE IS THE MAN WHO RAISED SIXTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS ON AN ACRE

J. F. McKinley, who lives in Polk county, about eight miles down the Willamette river, and on Salem route 1 (in the Lincoln district) has an acre of Oregon Champion gooseberry bushes that yielded eight tons four or five years ago, when the bushes were in their prime. They are 11 years old now, and they produced two and one-half tons last year, selling at three and one-half cents a pound to a cannery. Mr. McKinley has this year cut out the old wood and pruned the

bushes very severely, and he expects to rejuvenate them so that they will be good yielders for a long time yet. He expects to use fertilizer very liberally and he says gooseberries will respond as almost no other crop to the thorough enriching of the soil. He would set out more gooseberries if he had more land he could spare to this crop, and he thinks more attention should be paid to gooseberries by all of our farmers who grow fruits.

## GOOSEBERRIES FROM THE FACTORY STANDPOINT AND HOW TO GROW THEM

The Phez Company has published a pamphlet on "Berries and How to Grow Them," and that part of this useful pamphlet which refers to gooseberries is as follows: "Gooseberry culture has not been developed very highly in this state, no doubt attributed to the limited market for this crop which has existed in past years, but with the establishment of canning, jelly and preserve plants, gooseberries will find a ready outlet at a profitable price. Gooseberries thrive on loam soils and staminate clay; they grow exceptionally well on river bottom lands. They prefer, however, a cool location against a very warm one. As is true of all small fruits, they respond quickly to intensive cultivation and heavy application of green or stable manure. Plants are easily propagated. "Wood cuttings about eight inches long, heeled in the ground, will calous over and take root by spring and be ready for transplanting in the fall. For spring handling, cuttings can be made in February, stored in damp sawdust until time to set out in nursery rows next spring. The distance apart for planting will depend upon whether cultivation is practiced one or both ways, the soil and the vigor of the plant. If cultivated one way, the rows can be set out six feet apart and the plants four feet apart in the rows. When cultivation is desired both ways, five feet by five feet is often found to be satisfactory. "Success in handling gooseberries depends in no small way upon pruning. They may be started with either

the bush or tree form. In pruning remove all weak sprouts and remove wood which has been bearing over four years. Remove excessive canes, confining the bushes to only the strong and vigorous shoots to the number of four to eight, depending entirely upon the vigor of the wood. Should the plants show signs of weakness, head them back in order to produce larger fruit, and in the fall sow vetch or fertilizer with a heavy dressing of stable manure. "The standard variety of gooseberries in Oregon is the Champion. "Gooseberries are prolific bearers yielding all the way from five to eight tons per acre and market prices range from \$40 to \$60 per ton, with a five year average of \$50 per ton. "Gooseberries are now in greater demand and growers who decide to grow them on a commercial scale will find an enlarged market. "Gooseberries excel on heavy loam and river bottom soils. If in doubt about your soil, write us."

Five-Hundred-Acre Tract Is Sold Near St. Paul

A real estate deal conveying 500 acres of farm lands in Marion county has just been closed. The property is located in the northwest part of the county near St. Paul. It is all river bottom soil and most of it is under cultivation. J. P. Smith was the seller and J. E. Smith was the purchaser. The price paid for the acreage was \$25,000.

## HERE IS A GOOSEBERRY GROWER WHO WANTS TO KNOW FACTORY COSTS

Editor Statesman: In regard to the article on gooseberries which you asked me to furnish for your January 15 edition, will say that it was very kind of you to ask me to furnish same. I have complete records of the 1918 and 1919 crops, cost of production, prices, net income, etc., and to any one starting in the gooseberry business, will be glad to furnish any information possible. Have never seen anything in your paper (or any other) as to what it costs the Salem factories to pack the berries we sell them, nor their selling price, net profits, etc. — Get the packer to furnish information the same as you ask of the grower, and I am willing to give you my experience with the gooseberries and a year's subscription to The Statesman. Yours truly, Charles McCarter, Salem, Jan. 9, 1920.

(The managers of the Salem factories are welcome to the space to answer. Mr. McCarter and tell him "what it costs the Salem factories to pack the berries we sell them, their selling price, net profits, etc." But the editor would say that, first, they would be entitled to figure some return on the millions of dollars they have put into the land and buildings for the machinery and equipment of their factories; into advertising their products; into the warehouses and offices and salaries of their managers in the various cities of the country—in order that the people who have read the advertisements and had samples of their products may find their brands in the retail stores through the country. They are entitled to something in the way of "overhead charges" for the salaries they must pay and the wages of the laborers they must employ; something for the cans and labels and cases they must use for shipping; something for the high freightage each way, and the telegraphing and telephoning and letter writing and a thousand and one other things requiring money to push Oregon and Salem products. And something, too, we hope, as a reward for the faith they have shown in thus risking their fortunes and the best parts of their lives in order that there may be a market at all times in the future for the great crops that are bound to be grown here in this best and richest of all valleys in the world, so endowed by Nature.

## DATES OF SLOGANS IN DAILY STATESMAN (In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)

Loganberries, Oct. 9.  
Prunes, Oct. 16.  
Dairying October 23.  
Flax, October 30.  
Filberts, Nov. 6.  
Walnuts, Nov. 13.  
Strawberries, Nov. 20.  
Apples, November 27.  
Raspberries, December 4.  
Mint, December 11.  
Great Cows, December 18.  
Blackberries, December 25.  
Cherries, January 1, 1920.  
Pears, January 8, 1920.  
Gooseberries, January 15, 1920.  
Corn, January 22, 1920.

National Advertising, January 29, 1920.  
Sheep, February 5, 1920.  
Angora Goats, February 12, 1920.  
Hops, February 19, 1920.  
Currants, February 26, 1920.  
Paper Mill, March 4, 1920.  
Dehydration, March 11, 1920.  
Mining, March 18, 1920.  
Hogs, March 25, 1920.  
Land, April 1, 1920.  
(Back copies of Salem Slogan Editions of the Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 5c each, mailed to any address.)

(It will interest some people to know that these back copies are selling fast—that, nearly every day, orders are received from near and distant points for the whole series. They will be sold out before the fifty-two Slogans are completed, without doubt.—Ed.)

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STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES  
FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES  
North Liberty Street

**A PROGRESSIVE STORE**  
Whose Slogan is: MODERATE PRICES COURTEOUS SERVICE  
Dry Goods—Ladies' Ready-To-Wear—Ladies' Shoes  
**KAFOURY BROS.**  
466-474 State Street

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Owing to the fact that our business has more than doubled in the past year and also to the extreme scarcity of kinds of supplies  
**We Have Discontinued Sending Out Ice Creams in Packers**  
**We Are Still Manufacturing Our Own Ice Creams for Store Use**  
and you will find only the most wholesome and delicious home-made ice creams being served in our parlors or at our fountains. We will continue to supply those who wish ice cream in half pint to gallon size, paper pails to take home. No limit being placed on the quantity to be purchased in this manner.  
For our customers' convenience we have made arrangements with the Buttercup Ice Cream Company to take care of our catering business and we will be glad to take orders for packed ice cream in any quantity to be made and delivered by them.  
**The SPA Confectionery**  
Home-made Candies and Ice Cream

**JANUARY Shoe Clearance**  
In spite of rising costs and you can buy shoes at 1918 prices  
**UNUSUALLY LOW COST**  
Lot 730 men's gun metal English lace with Neolin soles, a regular \$7.50 quality at ..... \$4.95  
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**MEN'S HEAVY**  
756 brown grain, heavy blucher, welt sole ..... \$4.85  
724 dark brown, army last, Goodyear welt ..... \$5.20  
770 D. K. Brown heavy blucher, double sole ..... \$5.85  
759 D. K. Brown all solid army shoe, welt ..... \$6.45  
**SALE CLOSSES SATURDAY JANUARY 17th, 9 P. M.**  
167 North Commercial Street  At The Electric Sign "SHOES"