

Best Yields of Finest Berries, Highest Prices and Greatest Demand for Large Acreage Will Make Salem Gooseberry Center; Also the Center of the Currant Industry

D. R. RUBLE OF POLK COUNTY, WHO WAS ONCE NAMED THE CURRANT KING

He Produced More Currants Than Any One Else in This Section, and He Went Out of That Branch of Industry for a Time, But He Is Going in Again, and Will Contract—The Story of His Ups and Downs in Currant Growing

(By D. R. Ruble, Salem, Or.)

In the fall of 1903 I bought 200 two-year-old London Market currant bushes and set them out 80 inches apart each way. The bushes cost me \$16.50. The London Market was a new kind and I had much to learn to get the best results. I propagated from the bushes and in three or four years I had about one acre in bearing. The price in those days was very low, about 4 cents per pound. But about seven years ago I planted the price began to get better and one crop was sold around 7 cents at Portland, which gave me much encouragement. The next season I had seven-eighths of an acre in full bearing and a most remarkable crop of extra fine fruit, which I sold for \$16.50. That put an offer-supply of pinto my make-up and I set out more currants and propagated several thousand for the trade, which I readily sold.

The next season I had another fine crop and conditions were much reversed from the former season. The rains did not cease until the fruit was ripe for picking, and it did seem strange, but it was almost impossible to get the fruit into the express without the juice leaking from the crates. But as I had been to Portland and instructed the commission men to keep me posted at my expense if anything was going wrong, I did not worry much about conditions at that end of the line, but after I had sent 200 crates, and had received but little word or money, I thought I had best call up the firm that handled my main output and see what was doing. He replied that something was wrong with the currant trade, said people were not calling for them, and they were being forced to sell at a very low price, and advised me not to send any more until the demand picked up. I went to the field and told the pickers what was up and they took the disappointment in good grace and picking stopped and stayed stopped. No price either in the market, or the jelly factory plants.

The next season I was able to find market for the fruit, but not at a satisfactory price. The next season the public market opened at Yamhill street, Portland, and I went for a tryout and the results were very satisfactory. No price either in the market, or the jelly factories had thousands of gallons of currant juice stored away in five gallon cans—and sell the rest. I could not. I don't think they were as profitable as 50 cents per crate, but they stayed on the bushes. Had I had but the 400 crates I would have been fairly well compensated, for my labor, but if cost me as much to grow the ones I did not harvest as it did the ones that made good. In the meantime a goodly number of farmers were considering my good success and were planting currants. There was much comment on the public market how fast my currants sold, as compared with other berries, etc. One of the Portland papers gave me a very flattering write-up, and went so far as to call me the currant king. However, I could not accept this degree of royal highness with the pomp that kings generally display on such occasions, as I realized that my kingdom was shrouded with much uncertainty, and was fast tottering to the worst, notwithstanding. I produced more currants at that time than anyone I had heard of. The worms had come from my neighbor's depleted planting, and from all I could

learn about currant worms there were about two things to do—either destroy the currant plants or pick off the fruit and destroy it before it got half-size. Spraying is too uncertain. I therefore took the sure plan and despatched all my currant bushes, expecting to start again. But as war times sent the dollars rolling so freely in all directions, I have just woken up to the fact that I lacked the stay-witthness. And plants are scarce and high priced, and I am offered 7 cents per pound, f. o. b. Salem on a seven-year contract. This offer is, I consider, a good one, and a very safe undertaking.

I have contracted for all my surplus ground. What appeals to me in currant growing is the ease with which they are handled. I planted the rows seven feet apart and the plants five feet apart in the rows so as to allow for cultivating each way. Most all the work is done in the warm-weather and if one keeps the fertility in the land the bushes will surely develop. Perhaps the most vital point in currant culture is not to allow too much wood to develop. I believe eight new canes per year should be the limit. Again, when it comes to picking currants, everyone likes the job. Just sit down in a chair and pick. It is surely a picnic.

As for varieties to grow, I have taken the stand that the London Market is the best, all things considered. It is very prolific, long-lived, and plants have a straight growing habit that is not equalled in any other kind I ever saw. About the time I got fairly started in the currant business I was attracted by an advertisement about the Perfection currant. I got one for a trial and at first I was completely carried away with what seemed to me to be the ideal currant. Accordingly, I bought 1200 two-year-old plants from the originator, and for all I planted them on different kinds of land, they never yielded the goods; five pounds was all I ever got from one plant at one picking, and many only gave three pounds, while the London Market on the same ground and same conditions yielded from three to 18 pounds to the plant at a single picking. I have had a number of plants yield 12 pounds, one right after another. However, eight and nine

GOOSEBERRIES AND CURRANTS PROFITABLE; MORE ARE NEEDED

The Ideal Scheme Being Practiced in the Salem District of Having a Succession of Crops Following Each Other in Order to Hold the Harvesters Calls for More Gooseberry and Currant Acreage; and These Fruits Are Needed by Our Factories

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 Salem district and in the whole 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 leafspots, two of the most troublesome fungous diseases. Commercially speaking, about

pounds to the bush is plenty, and when producing that amount one might expect the yield to continue uniform, while 18 pounds means a shy crop the next season. The Wilder is a currant that should not be overlooked. It is very prolific and I think the sweetest of all currants, making it very desirable for fruit juice or for wine. As the national prohibition law allows each family to make and use fermented wine for family use only, the Wilder may play an important part in supplying a suitable article for that purpose. One thing also about the Perfection currant, they would die under the most favorable circumstances. Possibly I got a poor strain, as I know of one man who has discarded the London Market, as he prefers the Perfection, it giving him better results. As to the future of the currant business, my advice would be, play safe; contract while contracting is good, or else go slow.

It is a hard road to travel when you have a fine crop and no market. However, just at this time there seems to be a disposition in the part of city people to live in a paper sack, as the saying goes, and buy much of their supplies all ready for the table. This will strengthen the jelly market if it keeps up. In the cities domestic science seems to be on the lull, and many of the young girls expect to marry the fellow that can buy the stuff for the kitchen ready, thereby allowing them more time to gad and to go to the movies. (Poor Things!)

As for currants: They are the king of all fruits for making jelly, and perhaps the currant will never fall below its present reputation. However, I am informed that a new competitor in small fruits has appeared on the scene that may shake the present standard of some of the leading berries. It is claimed to yield from 15 to 40 thousand pounds a season and can be picked at 25 cents per 100 pounds. I have met men who have grown it and they tell me the story is a matter of fact. I wrote the originator asking for advice about planting one acre. He advised me to plant only one-fourth that amount until I get better acquainted with its habits and demands. I accepted his advice and expect to give it a good trial.

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 canner and for making jellies and jams. It is also good when used in combination with other fruits in imparting that sprightly gooseberry flavor, now gaining in favor with American consumers. Growers find the Oregon Champion a sure cropper and a heavy yielder. One grower says he has never been troubled with either leaf-spot or mildew, yet he has 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, will 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—which means 12,000 to 20,000 pounds. Fear to plant gooseberries may be taken from individual bushes under good conditions. The thorns are a source of trouble in gathering the fruit. Some growers use a wire frame with flanges like a comb; others literally strip the berries from the branches with heavy leather gloves, covering their hands. When the berries are gathered they should be run through a fanning mill to remove the leaves and small twigs. Gooseberries should be gathered before they become ripe. The present market demands them at this state. They are then most readily gathered and can be held for a considerable time without injury. Being the first fruit of the season, consumers are ready to buy gooseberries at a price that spells profits to the grower. In the spring of 1919 the first goose-

berries 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. Canners 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.

HARRY E. WHITE, GROWER, ON THE GOOSEBERRY INDUSTRY

He Thinks All Fruit Growers in the Salem District Should Raise Some Gooseberries and They Will Find It Profitable; Should Average 8000 Pounds to the Acre

(By Harry E. White, Field Representative, Oregon Growers' Co-Operative Association)

I believe the gooseberry to be one of our best small fruit crops, because the gooseberry is ready for harvest before any other fruit, the returns coming at a time when it is most welcome to the small fruit grower. The fact that the gooseberry can be harvested early is a very material advantage in getting help to gather the crop. It is the best to grow on our hill lands. Even on the poorer hill soils it produces heavily, though not making the wood growth it makes on the richer soils. About the only diseases that give us much trouble are mildew and anthracnose. Mildew can usually be controlled by one application of lime and sulphur, diluted one to forty, when the fruit is about one third grown. Some years it will not be necessary to spray for mildew at all. The writer has followed the practice of waiting for the mildew to make an appearance, and then spraying immediately. Anthracnose has made its appearance only in a few patches, but it will give the grower considerable trouble if not controlled. It can be detected by a yellowing of the foliage, and upon close examination of the infected leaves, small black spots about one thirty-second of an inch in diameter will be seen. Where no control measures are applied to infected patches, they will be

practically defoliated by midsummer, which tends to devitalize the plants. Anthracnose can be controlled by spraying with Bordeaux mixture at the first sign of the disease, and in the spring 6-6-50 strength. The next application should be applied just before the bloom 4-4-50 (summer) strength, and at least one more application should be applied after the blossoming stage summer strength. This should give practically a complete control, depending upon how serious the infestation was. The writer believes we will make a serious mistake if we do not encourage more diversity in our fruit industry in this section. Rather than to carry all our eggs in one basket, as does the grower who sticks to one variety of berries, we should encourage the growing of berries which do well here, but are not generally planted. An ideal planting for the berry grower would include the gooseberry, strawberry, loganberry and blackberry. By having all of these varieties the grower will have a strong drawing card in securing pickers. In that he will be able to keep his pickers busy from the first of June until some time in September. The Oregon Growers' Co-Operative Association the past season handled my crop, securing eight cents a pound. This is four times as much as I received for my crop three or four years ago. Gooseberries in full bearing should yield about 8,000 pounds per acre. This is a fair average. While I do not expect to get such a high figure the coming season, the prospects are that a price will be secured that will be satisfactory to the grower.

GOOSEBERRIES FROM FACTORY VIEW; HOW TO GROW THEM

The Phex 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 demand 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 stand considerably well on river bottom lands. They prefer, however, a cool location as 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 callous over and take root by spring and be ready for transplanting in the fall. For spring plantings, 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. This 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 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 bear-

ers, 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 great 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."

Oscar Brown Funeral to be Held Friday
The funeral of Oscar E. Brown, who died at Grand Prairies, Alberta, January 1 will be held from the Webb & Clough parlors Friday at 2 o'clock, conducted by H. N. Aldrich of the Lestie Methodist Episcopal church. De-

1000 EGGS IN EVERY HEN TELLS HOW
New System of Poultry Keeping—Get Dollar A Dozen Eggs—Faster Poultryman
The average pullet lays 150 eggs. If kept the second year, she may lay 100 more. Then she goes to market. Yet it has been scientifically established that every pullet is born or hatched with over one thousand minute egg germs in her system—and will lay 1500 in a highly profitable basis over a period of four to six years' time if given proper care. How to work to get 1,000 eggs from every hen; how to get pullets laying early; how to make the old hens lay like pullets; how to keep up heavy egg production all through cold winter months when eggs are highest; triple egg production; make alacker hens bustle \$5.00 profit from every hen in six winter months. These and many other money making poultry secrets are contained in Mr. Trafford's "1,000 Egg Hen" system of poultry raising, one copy of which will be sent absolutely free to any reader of this paper who keeps six hens or more. Eggs should be sold for a dollar or more a dozen this winter. This means big profit in the poultry keeper who gets the eggs. Mr. Trafford tells how. If you keep chickens and want them to make money for you, get out this and see it with your own eyes and address to Henry Trafford, Suite 338 Type Bldg., Birmingham, N. Y. Send a free egg of "THE 1,000 Egg Hen" will be sent by return mail.

GOOSEBERRY ACREAGE WAS OVERLOOKED BY ASSESSORS
But Some of the Deputy Assessors in Marion County Filled in Miscellaneous Crops Not Provided for in the Regular Blanks Which Were Furnished to Them
The gooseberry will no doubt in time be regarded as a good money maker for the small acreage, but there are no statistics to show that this industry has taken a very firm hold on the growers in the Willamette valley. For the past few years a few growers in Polk county have been receiving most liberal returns from gooseberry growing and found a ready market in the canneries in Salem. But when it comes to actual statistics as to gooseberry acreage in the 1920 report of the state tax commission, there are none. When the blanks were made out for the use of assessors in securing a report of crop acreages, the gooseberry, along with the onion, beans, garlic, kale, onion sets, mint and sweet flag, were left out. But in Marion county, in their endeavors to get the correct crop acreages, a number of the deputy assessors wrote in their reports an acreage list for the plants that were given no particular coun-

RED CURRANTS ARE WANTED AND BLACK ONES, TOO, A HUNDRED ACRES OF EACH

And the Puyallup & Sumner Fruit Growers Canning Company Will Be Glad to Contract for a Series of Years for the Red Currants at Seven Cents a Pound and the Black Ones at Eight Cents a Pound—Directions on How to Put Them Out

Up to very recently there has not been a very heavy demand in the Northwest for red currants, for the reason that none of our canning plants have been deeply concerned in the manufacture of jellies. But the growers of the Willamette valley are interested in diversified crops so as to protect themselves against any unusual conditions that might arise during the various growing years. For example, if all of the loganberry growers had had all of their canes on the wires during the winter of 1919-1920, there would have been very little doing in a loganberry way the season of 1920, but some of the growers had their canes on the ground while others had their canes on the trellis, with the result that the cold weather did not affect the canes that were on the ground in the same way it did the canes that were on the wires. This should teach the grower a lesson in that it is not always advisable to have all of your eggs in one basket. This is one of the reasons why our growers should plant a reasonable amount of rhubarb, a

quantity of red and black currants, some strawberries, some red raspberries, some loganberries, some black raspberries, as well as any kind of tree fruit that will grow a crop that can be sold at a profit. It is the part of wisdom to have a diversified crop, regardless of the fact that some portion of that crop may not make as good profit as other portions of it, so that on the whole the entire enterprise is safe from any unusual frost or cold weather conditions. Very largely for this reason we urge the growing of a considerable acreage of red and black currants. In fact, when Mr. W. H. Paulhamus of the Puyallup & Sumner Fruit Growers' Canning company was in Salem a few days ago, he advised that the Puyallup & Sumner Fruit Growers' Canning company would be delighted to contract with the growers for at least 100 acres of red currants and a similar quantity of black currants. Currants should be propagated from the tips of the bushes rather than from suckers. The growers should take a tip

about nine inches long and with the point of a knife destroy each one of the buds except three or four at the top of the slip, then stick in the ground about three inches; the result will be a currant tree. After these plants have rooted sufficiently they can be transplanted five feet apart both ways and kept well cultivated and clean with the result that within two years the grower will have an orchard of currant trees, either red or black. By keeping the arms of the currant plants pinched back during the growing season, so that the currants will be produced next to the body of the tree rather than four or five feet from the tree on the end of a limb, it will require much less ground, makes the patch much easier to cultivate, and a volume of crop can be produced. Mr. Paulhamus advises that his company is willing to enter into a contract with the growers for a series of years of red currants at 7 cents per pound and black currants at 8 cents per pound. This is certainly a desirable price for currants, besides numerous relatives and friends. He was married to Miss Maude Ann Mills of Star City, Ark., Jan. 14, 1916. Jointure will be in City View cemetery.

OUT OF THE RACK.
When a person wakes up with a stiff back, had pains in muscles, aches in his joints, or has rheumatic twinges, he lacks ambition and energy and cannot do his best. If you feel out of the race, tired and languid, or have other symptoms of kidney trouble, you should act promptly. Foley Kidney Pills help the kidneys do their work and get out of the system the poisonous matter that causes so much trouble. They give relief from sleep-disturbing bladder disturbances. Sold everywhere.

WANTED!
2,000 of the prettiest girls in SALEM to attend the opening of "THE CHARM SCHOOL" at the Oregon Theatre, New Building. WALLACE BLISS, Prop.

Free—this Valuable
1921 DIAMOND QUALITY SEED
Catalog and Planter's Guide
You can afford to tie up good land or spend time and labor on any but the best stock. Under Diamond Quality stock seed is sure of getting the finest strains and the right varieties for your purpose. Get the Diamond Quality Catalog in your possession as quickly as you can. It will pay you! Ask for Catalog No. 889

At the Electric Sign "SHOES"
PRICES SLASHED
—AT THE—
PRICE RE-ADJUSTMENT SACRIFICE SHOE SALE
The Footery
WHERE CASH IS KING
EVERY PAIR IN THE STORE CUT TILL IT HURTS
At the Electric Sign "SHOES"

GOOSEBERRY ACREAGE WAS OVERLOOKED BY ASSESSORS
But Some of the Deputy Assessors in Marion County Filled in Miscellaneous Crops Not Provided for in the Regular Blanks Which Were Furnished to Them
The gooseberry will no doubt in time be regarded as a good money maker for the small acreage, but there are no statistics to show that this industry has taken a very firm hold on the growers in the Willamette valley. For the past few years a few growers in Polk county have been receiving most liberal returns from gooseberry growing and found a ready market in the canneries in Salem. But when it comes to actual statistics as to gooseberry acreage in the 1920 report of the state tax commission, there are none. When the blanks were made out for the use of assessors in securing a report of crop acreages, the gooseberry, along with the onion, beans, garlic, kale, onion sets, mint and sweet flag, were left out. But in Marion county, in their endeavors to get the correct crop acreages, a number of the deputy assessors wrote in their reports an acreage list for the plants that were given no particular coun-

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- DATES OF SLOGANS IN DAILY STATESMAN (In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)**
- Loganberries, Oct. 7.
 - Fruit, Oct. 14.
 - Dairy, Oct. 21.
 - Flax, Oct. 28.
 - Filberts, Nov. 4.
 - Walnuts, Nov. 11.
 - Strawberries, Nov. 18.
 - Apples, Nov. 25.
 - Raspberries, Dec. 2.
 - Mint, Dec. 9.
 - Great-crown, Dec. 16.
 - Blackberries, Dec. 23.
 - Cherries, Dec. 30.
 - Pears, Jan. 6, 1921.
 - Gooseberries and Currants, Jan. 13.
 - Corn, Jan. 20.
 - Celery, Jan. 27.
 - Splach, Feb. 3.
 - Onions, Feb. 10.
 - Potatoes, Feb. 17.
 - Bees, Feb. 24.
 - Mining, March 2.
 - Goats, March 9.
 - Beans, March 16.
 - Paved highways, March 23.
 - Broccoli, March 30.
 - Silos, April 6.
 - Legumes, April 13.
 - Asparagus, April 20.
 - Grapes, April 27.

Drug garden, May 4.
Sorghum, May 11.
Sorghum, May 18.
Cabbage, May 25.
Dehydration, June 15.
Hops, June 22.
Wholesale and Jobbing, June 29.
Cucumbers, July 6.
Hogs, July 13.
City beautiful, flowers and bulbs, July 20.
Schools, July 27.
Sheep, Aug. 3.
National Advertising, Aug. 10.
Seeds, Aug. 17.
Livestock, Aug. 24.
Automotive Industry, Aug. 31.
Grain and Grain Products, Sept. 7.
Manufacturing, Sept. 14.
Woodworking and other things, Sept. 21.
Paper Mill, Sept. 28.
(Back copies of Salem Slogan editions of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10c each, mailed to any address.)

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