

SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The Statesman will publish and award a prize each week for the best essay submitted by a grade school pupil on the industries scheduled on this page.

THE DAILY STATESMAN dedicates one full page each week in the interests of one of the fifty-two basic industries of the Salem district. Letters and articles from boosters are solicited. This is your page. Help boost Salem.

For instance: Salem district has two counties growing the sacred myrtle—the only place it grows on this continent. What unique fact do you know about the district? Address articles to Slogan Editor, care Statesman.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER PACK OF BLACKBERRIES PUT UP THAN OUR PACK

That Is the Verdict of Cannermen and Other Authorities, Says Prof. Schuster of the Oregon Agricultural College—How to Cultivate and Prune and Train Them—A Number of Varieties, But the Evergreen Is the Greatest of Them All for Our Section

The canning of blackberries has been expanding very rapidly during the last few years, and the berry principally concerned in this industry is the common and often despised Evergreen blackberry. According to cannermen and others familiar with the canned product, there never has been a better pack of blackberries put up than that of the Pacific Northwest, the bulk of which is composed of this wild Evergreen blackberry.

blockberry is self-sterile, but apparently readily cross pollinized with any other blackberry blooming at the same time. It can be expected that the Cory's Thornless will behave in a similar manner.

Still Other Varieties
A few other varieties that are frequently found in small quantities in the Willamette valley especially, are the Himalaya and Australian blackberries. Both of them are of the Evergreen type, vigorous growers, with heavy production. The canned product is inferior to that of the Evergreen, and the berries when they first turn back are very sour, and are not readily palatable until the fruit is too soft for shipping.

The varieties grown in the east, like the Lawton and Kittatinny, find very little place out here. With the lighter yields common to these varieties and low prices available for cannery stock, it is difficult to compete with the Evergreens, especially since they are not so good for canning. For fresh trade there is an opening, as they are undoubtedly superior to the other berries ripening at that time.

The planting and culture does not vary from that needed for any other cane fruit. One of the mistakes most often noted is that of overcrowding. The Mammoth and Cory's Thornless are planted at the same distances advocated for loganberries; that is, 8 to 9 feet between the rows, and from 8 to 10 feet between plants in the row.

Evergreen Needs Room
The Evergreen blackberry requires greater distance, not less than nine feet between the rows, and from 12 to 16 feet in the row between the plants. Nothing is gained by crowding in more plants. Crowding will simply mean more work in the pruning, cultivation, and other practices, and at the same time produce, as a rule, poorer quality of berries.

They Are Heavy Feeders
The cane fruits are invariably found to be heavy feeders, and the blackberry is not the least of them. Rich, fertile soil, that is deep enough to hold moisture well affords ideal conditions.

It is due to the abundance of the wild berry that so little has been done with the cultivated plantings in this state. With hundreds of tons available for the picking, it has naturally limited the tendency to plant blackberries. The cannerymen's connection among the cannerymen as to whether or not the cultivated blackberry is superior to the wild berry. The price of the cultivated stock is regulated by the cost of obtaining the wild berry, and therefore for some time to come the profits in raising Evergreen blackberries will necessarily be low, but from the fact that the blackberry bears heavily and regularly, the profits should be regular each year.

Other Blackberries
Besides the Evergreen blackberry there is a place for the Mammoth blackberry or the Cory's Thornless, but not in the cannery industry. The market for these two berries will be in the fresh, early trade. There is no other variety so early, so large, and attractive as these berries. For local trade there is a regular sale for them each season. Then again these berries should have a greater place in the home garden than they have. Ripening about the time of the loganberry, they afford an early summer fruit that is delicious.

The Cory's Thornless is a bud-sport of the Mammoth variety. It is apparently identical to the Mammoth in all respects, except its comparative freedom from thorns. It is reported that the Cory's Thornless often reverts to the thorny condition of the Mammoth. A man might plant Cory's Thornless and some time in the future find that he has gradually obtained a planting of the Mammoth blackberry. This is very often the condition found with bud-sports.

According to Darrow, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and also according to the two years' test at the Oregon Agricultural college station, the Mammoth

are spread and held their distance by slats of that length. The canes are trained over and under these slats. In some cases a similar set of wires is used for the young canes to keep them off the ground, and from injury by tramping. They may be transferred to the upper set later, or they may be left so the bearing canes will be on the upper set of wires one year and the lower set the following years. Other growers always place the bearing canes on the lower set with the idea of shading the fruit. The first practice of having the bearing canes along the upper set of wires is generally in practice.

The upright varieties need no trellis, but are self supporting, or are merely tied together in clumps. They are headed back to three to four feet in height, and allowed to fruit in that position. —C. E. SCHUSTER.

(Prof. Schuster, who wrote the above especially for the Statesman, is assistant horticulturist of the Oregon Agricultural college, and an excellent authority.—Ed.)

THEY MAKE PRETTY SIGHT IN HARVEST

The Older the Vines Grow, the More Evergreen Blackberries They Yield

Editor Statesman:
The Willamette valley is one of the most suitable places in the world for growing the blackberry, and few people have awakened to the fact that it is a profitable business.

I am a local grower here, having three acres of blackberries which yield me six tons to the acre. My patch is now seven years old, and I have found so far it yields more berries the older it grows.

Never did you see a prettier sight than long rows of the ripened fruit glistening in the sunshine ready to be gathered. A crop of this kind is so much in demand by cannery men.

The tips for planting can be gotten from the growers and are planted in the spring in rows 9x16 feet apart. The posts are set 32 feet apart, and I find two wires better than three such as I use in trellising the loganberries.

OREGON OXFORDS WIN GOOD AWARDS

Sheep of C. P. Kizer of Harrisburg Make Important Winnings in Chicago

(The Pacific Homestead, Salem, has the following item.)
We have received a report of the awards at the International Livestock Show recently held at Chicago, and among the awards as listed for the Oxford sheep we find that C. P. Kizer, Harrisburg, Oregon, won first on flock, first on pen of three ewe lambs, first and second on ewe lamb, first and fourth on yearling ewes, reserve champion on a ewe lamb, and then followed up and landed champion on a yearling ewe. Mr. Kizer has been exhibiting at our western shows and winning here, but this is the first time he has ventured out at the big national show. He has a right to be proud in winning the highest honor in the show. Good for you, Charlie!

SEND A COPY EAST

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW that Marion county produces about half the Evergreen blackberries in Oregon, that Polk county is next, Yamhill county third and Linn county fourth, giving the Salem district nearly all of the acreage of this most important crop; that there are chances for immense development in this great pie berry industry here; that it is an important link in diversified agriculture; that there is profit in growing Evergreen blackberries, and an empire here in extent suitable for their growth, and that new comers will do well to study the importance of this berry in their schemes of production?

Dates of Slogans in Daily Statesman (In Twice-a-Week Statesman Following Day)

- (With a few possible changes)
- Loganberries, October 1
- Prunes, October 8
- Delicious, October 15
- Flax, October 22
- Filberts, October 29
- Walnuts, November 5
- Strawberries, November 12
- Apples, November 19
- Raspberries, November 26
- Mint, December 3
- Beans, etc., December 10
- Blackberries, December 17
- Cherries, December 24
- Pears, December 31
- Gooseberries, January 7, 1925
- Corn, January 14
- Celery, January 21
- Spinach, etc., January 28
- Onions, etc., February 4
- Potatoes, etc., February 11
- Bees, February 18
- Poultry and Pet Stock, Feb. 25
- City Beautiful, etc., March 4
- Great Cows, March 11
- Paved Highways, March 18
- Head Lettuce, March 25
- Silos, etc., April 1
- Legumes, April 8
- Asparagus, etc., April 15
- Grapes, etc., April 22
- Drug Garden, April 29
- Sugar Beets, Sorghum, etc., May 6
- Water Powers, May 13
- Irrigation, May 20
- Mining, May 27
- Land, Irrigation, etc., June 3
- Floriculture, June 10
- Hops, Cabbage, etc., June 17
- Wholesaling and Jobbing, June 24
- Cucumbers, etc., July 1
- Hogs, July 8
- Goats, July 15
- Schools, etc., July 22
- Sheep, July 29
- National Advertising, August 5
- Seeds, etc., August 12
- Livestock, August 19
- Grain and Grain Products, August 26
- Manufacturing, September 2
- Automotive Industries, September 9
- Woodworking, etc., September 16
- Paper Mills, September 23

PRODUCTION OF BLACKBERRIES FOR HOME USE IS DISCUSSED BY EXPERT

The Major Problem Is Freedom From Insect Pests—In Providing Against the Bugs the Thing is to Make the Job Thorough—One Question Is Put Up to Other Growers

(By C. J. McINTOSH)
It just happens—or is it a wise provision of nature?—that the very thing that helps solve the major problem of good blackberry production likewise is one of the important things in solution of the minor problems. That is, sanitation.

No other phase of successful production of blackberries for home use has proved in my experience so influential as freedom from insect injury. Possibly in larger plantings grown on a commercial scale for the cannery or shipping, the soil and water and culture and disease problems outweigh the insect-control problem. But certainly they do not equal it in small plantings, at least in my experience.

And thus it is that the very process of cleaning up the patch in the fall by removal and destruction of the old canes, by raking up and burning or turning under deep the leaves, along with the weeds and grass if they have been permitted to develop during the summer cultivation, and the "rough" plowing or spading that exposes grubs and eggs of various kinds of birds and freezing weather, is the thing that helps provide good culture.

This culture includes a well-worked soil, good with the following spring, conversion of organic matter into plant food form, and development of good water holding capacity. Some of the insect pests that sap the plants and reduce the quality and yield of the crop burrow in the canes, some in the earth, and some lodge in the weeds and grass among the vines or in the fence rows. Hence it is that just one or two of the essential cultural practices are not enough to do away with the evils

so much displeased with each of these methods that I have practiced them both—and cursed 'em out—about equally. Of course I do not refer to the evergreen or other hardy varieties.

Of late years I have been seeking very early vigorous growth of vines with a letup in the late summer and fall, thereby developing a strong, sturdy stalk that will stand pretty well alone. Then by clipping off the leafy end in the fall and permitting the decapitated stalk to lean against a low trellis, leave it in a half recumbent position.

(Mr. McIntosh is the publicity man at the Oregon Agricultural college, but he writes the above as a leaf out of his own experience in his own garden.—Ed.)

HELPING POULTRY INDUSTRY TO GROW

The Salem Chickeries Looking Forward to a Still Larger Business

The Salem Chickeries, C. N. Needham manager, is looking forward to a much increased business for the coming year.

Though the organization supplied 210,000 baby chicks to its customers last year—customers scattered from the California poultry districts to Montana points and further.

The history of the Salem Chickeries runs back to 1918, when a small group of poultrymen in the Salem district organized to supply the ever increasing demand of western states with dependable, standard bred baby chicks.

Starting the first year with less than 15,000 baby chicks, the business grew steadily until during the 1925 season the organization sold 210,000 chicks to its customers.

Growing Constantly
The organization is growing constantly. There are now over 20 men and women associated in the enterprise, and every one is a thorough poultry breeder, and vitally interested in the success of the Salem Chickeries and in the solid growth of the poultry industry in this section.

The parent birds or breeders used by the organization are from carefully inspected flocks, and every bird is a vigorous, well bred producer, and carries the blood lines of the west's greatest laying strains.

The chicks are expertly hatched and carefully graded, assuring big, healthy youngsters that will develop into sturdy layers and breeders.

The Salem Chickeries is able to supply its customers with any quantity of chicks, from 25 to several thousand at one shipment.

(Continued on page 11)

THE SOLID PACK IS THE BIG THING IN THE EVERGREEN BLACKBERRY GAME

H. A. Kerr of Dayton Has Found a Way to Handle the Wild Evergreen in a Way That Will Pay Well for the Labor and Make the Harvesting of Them a Less Heart-breaking Task—He Thinks Evergreen Growing Is Not Overdone

(There is so much of value in the following, a year old, that it is reprinted, for the benefit of new subscribers—and it will probably do a lot of old subscribers good to reread it.)

Absolutely Solid Pack
The Evergreen is probably the best known variety for canning and is, I believe, the only known variety that will make an absolutely solid pack. What I mean by solid pack is that after 24 hours from the time it is cooked, that the end can be removed from the can, juice drained, and the berries turned out in a can almost as firm as a cake of cheese. This is why the Evergreen is a favorite with pie-makers.

The Pacific Northwest is perhaps the only section of the country where this berry is known and thrives as well.

There is some competition in the blackberry business with the Texas blackberry, but in the eastern markets they pay 50 cents to a dollar a dozen more for the Evergreen berry.

Solid pack makes the difference. I believe as a rule the Evergreen berry sells for 25 to 50 cents per dozen more in the eastern markets than does the loganberry. At present the blackberry business is not overdone by any means. I have sold many barrels of fruits and berries in the eastern markets, also Portland, Seattle and San Francisco, but I never had any worry about my business to advise or even suggest what is best to grow in the berry line. I believe everyone should be fully persuaded in his own mind, but for me I would grow Evergreens in rich bottom soil and harvest a berry crop worth while.

—H. A. KERR.
Dayton, Ore., Dec. 15, 1924.

(In a private note to the Slogan editor, not meant for publication, Mr. Kerr says: "I am enclosing a short article for your slogan issue. I have spent a number of years growing small fruits and vegetables; have studied long and hard the best methods of canning and operating, canning machinery; have been able to can the corn and tomatoes that make you sit and take notice; also the loganberry with the taste that lingers, and the "Oh you didd pickle," but my hat's off to the staple sales of car lots of Evergreen blackberries.")

Klamath County public service corporation assessment is \$3,749,352, \$1,548,115 more than in 1924.

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