

SALEM WILL ALWAYS BE COUNTRY'S GOOSEBERRY CENTER

Growing the Gooseberries
Subject Given Attention
By High College AuthorityThey Need Rich Soil and Intensive Cultivation and It
Is Best Practice to Have the Canes Bear
Only Three Crops

John C. Burtner of the Oregon Agricultural college, sends the following on Gooseberries, written for this annual Slogan number of the Statesman by C. E. Chavet, professor of pomology at that institution, and the highest authority in this part of the country:

The use of the gooseberry is practically limited to the canner's trade. In the European countries the varieties grown are considered excellent fruit for fresh trade, but with the mildew that develops in this country, it is very difficult to bring the European varieties to maturity here. For that reason, we find ourselves very nearly limited to the Oregon, or the Oregon Champion, and an American variety of little value for eating out of hand, but excellent from the canning standpoint. This variety has developed a greater immunity to the mildew than has any of the European varieties.

It is generally conceded that the gooseberry will do best on the cooler, heavier soils used for berry culture. The gooseberry takes a soil as heavy and as cool as do the blackberries, rather than the lighter, warmer soils best adapted to the growing of red raspberries. This does not mean that the soil will be wet and heavy, as is often interpreted, but must be a deep, well drained soil holding moisture well throughout the season, and one that is not subject to a high water table.

Needs Rich Soil
The gooseberry, although a bush and a relatively small plant compared with some of our other berries and fruit trees, is a heavy feeder and for that reason will do best in a rich soil. A soil primarily rich and one in which the fertility can be kept up well, is especially adapted to the growing of gooseberries.

On the richer soils the plants are ordinarily set six by six to give them plenty of space for growth and to allow easy cultivation. On such soils it is of no advantage to crowd them closer as each plant will occupy that amount of space to good advantage. Even on poorer soils, crowding them closer is often debated, for although on such soils the plants will make less growth, ordinarily the roots will occupy as much space as on the richer soils in the attempt to provide a moisture and food supply for the plant.

Planting should be carried on as early in the spring, or in the winter, as possible. Early planting will develop whether or not the plant will make a good growth during the coming season. A late planting will not give the plants opportunity for developing the root system, and in that way retard the growth during the summer time.

Intensive Cultivation
As with most small fruit, cultivation should be shallow and intensive throughout the summer. The gooseberry roots, especially near the plant, are very close to the surface, and deep cultivation will destroy the root system to a great extent. Intensive cultivation is necessary to maintain the moisture supply near the surface where the shallow running roots feed. Although the plant matures its fruit early in the season, cultivation should be carried on through a greater part of the season to allow the plant to develop well in a vegetative way and lay up a good supply of plant food for the coming season. The storing of the surplus food, that will cause a good bush and a good set of fruit the coming season, is done during the latter part of the summer, and if cultural conditions are allowed to lag the result will be a poor development and a slack supply of plant food for the coming season.

Three Crops Best
Pruning the gooseberry is somewhat different than pruning other berries or fruit trees. Usually, the hill contains from nine to 12 canes of different ages. A gooseberry cane will begin to bear the second season and will continue in good fashion for two or three years. The cane, ordinarily, will be past its best bearing at the end of the fourth season, which means that it has borne three seasons. It should then be taken out and replaced by a new one. It will be found to advantage to leave three or four canes the first year, adding that many the second year and continuing until the full number of canes are left in each hill. This will gradually build up the hill to its maximum production without injuring the plant in a vegetative way. Each year after that the older canes are removed and enough of the new ones are left to replace the old ones. All the surplus new growth is taken out, leaving the healthiest and best located of the new canes.

Pruning, other than taking out the old canes and replacing the new ones, is very limited. It is of no advantage as a rule to head back the canes unless they get exceptionally long and straggling. Usually by that time they are better taken out entirely. In some cases we find that the lateral growth on the canes is too dense and heavy for good development of fruit. This lateral growth can often be pruned out to advantage, giving larger fruit. If the full supply of lateral growth should be left on some canes the total number of berries set would be so great that the cane would be unable to mature the berries to good size.

Harvesting the Crop

Harvesting is usually commenced early before the berries become fully ripe. It is done by stripping the berries from the canes—the picker wearing gloves and drawing the hands from the lower to the upper part of the cane, stripping off the berries. An attempt to pick each individual berry results in very slow work and considerable damage from the thorns. Some growers use canvas sheets, about six feet square, cut or slit to the center. This is worked around the hill and laid on the ground so that the gooseberries will drop out of the fingers onto the canvas. The leaves taken off at the time of stripping can be blown out by a fanning mill.

But He Has Reduced His Planting Till He Has Now Only Twelve Acres

W. Frank Crawford was king of several years the gooseberry king of the Salem district, in point of extent of acreage and annual crop. He had 64 tons in 1926, selling part of his crop (contracted) that year at 6 cents a pound. In 1927 he sold at 3 1/2 cents. He gets three to four tons to the acre, and has produced at a much higher tonnage rate on small tracts.

He Had 23 Acres in Gooseberries Up to 1927. He Has Reduced His Planting to 12 Acres. He Is Still the Gooseberry King, Having the Largest Single Planting in the District, and No Doubt the Largest Annual Tonnage in Oregon.

How He Grows Them
Mr. Crawford plants six feet apart each way and leaves a 10 foot roadway every 12 rows, for the spraying and drawing.

He Prunes in the Winter While the Bushes are Dormant and Leaves Nothing Older than Three Year Old Wood. He Leaves Four or Five New Canes Each Year; Provides about a Dozen Canes for Each Clump for Bearing.

The Spraying
Where the anthracnose is in evidence he sprays just as the buds appear, with 5-5-50; that is five parts bluestone and five of lime, to 50 parts of water. Sprays again with the same solution right after picking.

If not spraying for anthracnose, Mr. Crawford puts on a dormant winter spray, one to nine lime-sulphur solution. This is in the nature of a general housecleaning and Mr. Crawford gives this to every bush fruit and fruit tree on his place, every year. His observation is that this is an insurance against disease; that if every orchardist practiced this method, he would not have much trouble with diseases of his bush or fruit trees of any kind.

For mildew, Mr. Crawford sprays with 1-40 lime-sulphur solution just after the blossom drops; when the berries are very small.

For the borer, he grubs up the bush and burns it. The grower can tell when the borer is present by the yellowing of the tops of the branches, after which they begin to die.

Methods of Cultivation
Mr. Crawford plows the dirt to the bushes in December; from the bushes in March. As soon as the ground is dry, he cultivates crosswise, three times. Then clod mashes both ways. He believes in early cultivation, and shallow cultivation.

The Picking
In harvesting the crop, each picker has a canvas and uses gloves and strips or combs the

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Dates of Slogans in Oregon Statesman
(With a few possible changes)
Loganberries, October 7, 1928.
Prunes, October 14.
Dairying, October 21.
Flax, October 28.
Filberts, November 4.
Walnuts, November 11.
Strawberries, November 18.
Apples, Figs, etc., Nov. 25.
Raspberries, December 2.
Mint, December 9.
Beans, etc., December 16.
Blackberries, December 23.
Cherries, December 30.
Pears, January 6, 1929.
Gooseberries, January 13.
Corn, January 20.
Celery, January 27.
Spinach, etc., February 3.
Onions, etc., February 10.
Potatoes, etc., February 17.
Bees, February 24.
Poultry and Pet Stock, Mar. 3.
City Beautiful, etc., March 10.
Great Cows, March 17.
Paved Highways, March 24.
Head Lettuce, March 31.
Siles, etc., April 7.
Legumes, April 14.
Asparagus, etc., April 21.

Grapes, etc., April 28.
Drug Garden, May 5.
Sugar Industry, May 12.
Water Power, May 19.
Irrigation, May 26.
Mining, June 2.
Land, Irrigation, etc., June 9.
Floriculture, June 16.
Hops, Cabbage, etc., June 23.
Wholesaling, Jobbing, June 30.
Cucumbers, etc., July 7.
Hogs, July 14.
Goats, July 21.
Schools, July 28.
Sheep, August 4.
Seeds, August 11.
National Advertising, Aug. 18.
Livestock, August 25.
Grain & Grain Products, Sept. 1.
Manufacturing, Sept. 8.
Woolworking, etc., Sept. 15.
Automotive Industries Sept. 22.
Paper Mills, Sept. 29.
(Back copies of the Sunday edition of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10 cents each, mailed to any address. Current topics, 5 cents.

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW That Salem is the center of a great gooseberry industry; that this is the best country in the world for the gooseberry grower, because he can raise more and better gooseberries to the acre here; that the Oregon Champion gooseberry is the champion canning gooseberry of the earth; that it is also a splendid berry for shipping fresh, holding up for several weeks; that Oregon is the leading state in the Union in number of cases of gooseberries canned, and that we should have and must secure jelly and jam factories taking a great tonnage of our gooseberries?

Still Gooseberry Center

SALEM is still the gooseberry center of the United States, and will maintain that distinction—

Though the tonnage produced and the number of cases of canned gooseberries packed here will not be as large for a few years as they were in 1926 and 1927—

Perhaps not as large as last year, when the Washington pack was 19,263 cases and the Oregon pack 34,600 cases; nearly all the Oregon canned pack going from Salem, as has been the record for a number of years; ever since gooseberry growing cut any considerable figure here.

Oregon is the leading state in canned gooseberry pack, and Washington is second.

Over production here has brought low prices, and they will no doubt rule low for some time—

Though all the berries offered to the canneries will be taken this year at some price. The fact is, the canners will probably not be able to get enough gooseberries to fill their lines—because not enough will be grown.

Growers have allowed their patches to die out and deteriorate, through neglect.

Some gooseberries went from Salem last year in cold pack; but that cannot be counted on for a large outlet.

What is coming, and what will rejuvenate the gooseberry industry here, will be jam and jelly factories.

We are still and will continue to be the gooseberry center of the country; but the big future in this line will be when we get great jam and jelly factories.

GOOSEBERRY KING IS STILL THE KING

But He Has Reduced His Planting Till He Has Now Only Twelve Acres

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Salem Canned Gooseberry
Center of Whole Country
And Oregon Leading StateWashington Comes Second Among the States and the
Salem District Is Destined to Hold and Increase
Its Lead in This Field

Oregon is now and has for several years been the leading gooseberry state in the Union, in point of pack of canned berries. Washington is second. Here is the record in number of cases packed in the two states since the industry got a start on a commercial scale:

	Oregon	Washington
1919	9,000	7,000
1920	14,000	5,000
1921	9,000	11,000
1922	14,000	8,500
1923	35,000	15,000
1924	48,000	14,000
1925	47,000	19,000
1926	58,352	20,506
1927	54,503	29,653
1928	34,600	19,263

Stocks All Sold Now
In the gooseberry Slogan number of the Statesman of the corresponding date with this year it was stated that the unsold stock of canned gooseberries was 26,409 cases—almost as many as the surplus pack of 1927 over 1926 of the two leading canned gooseberry states, Oregon and Washington. That did not look good.

But there is a different condition now—the stock is out of the hands of the canneries; all sold.

What This Means
This means that all the gooseberries of the 1929 crop grown in the Salem district will be in demand, at some price. Perhaps it will not be a high price. It is likely to be a low one. It might be safely predicted that it will be a remunerative price for the grower but for the competition of other berries produced here, because our gooseberries acreage has been falling off. It has dwindled gradually for four or five years, on account of an overproduction and consequent low prices, especially for uncontracted berries.

In some years, gooseberries here have remained on the vines, for lack of buyers. The canners lost money on them steadily, and they could not risk too large packs.

The two other crops grown here that compete with gooseberries are evergreen blackberries and the low grade or water packs of loganberries.

But there will always be a demand for some gooseberries, at some price, by the canners, and gooseberries here will no doubt "come back," though it may take them a long time to come all the way back to the war prices, when 7 cents a pound and better was paid for them; and there would have been a "gold mine" in a large acreage, and some of our leading growers did make large profits.

What Is Needed
What is needed to help is jam and jelly factories, the same as they have in England, where

A Business Farmer
Mr. Crawford's young cherry orchard is mostly of Royal Anns. He has been going stronger on swine breeding. He keeps Chester Whites exclusively now, though he has had Poland Chinas and has tried cross breeding for quick growth of young stock to turn off. He grows his own corn for feeding, maturing it and drying it by spreading in dry sheds. He produces about 50 bushels of corn to the acre.

Gooseberry Future
Mr. Crawford does not like to make predictions as to the future of the gooseberry industry here. He told the reporter, however, that the way the plantings in the Salem district are being neglected and consequently are dying out with diseases, there will not be many tons for the canneries within a couple of years, unless there are new plantings and proper attention is given them.

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IN WHIPPET FOUR

Rated, ever since its introduction over two years ago, as the most powerful engine for its bore and stroke, the new superior Whippet four cylinder engine shows a nine horsepower increase over the previous power plant.

While no drastic changes have been made in the new Whippet four cylinder engine, a number of refinements and minor improvements account for its increased power. In the new motor, the stroke has been increased 3/4 of an inch with the bore remaining the same. Coupled with the increase in the stroke, the compression ratio has also been boosted

from the old ratio of 5 to 1 to a new one of 5.5 to 1.

The shape of the combustion chamber remains the same, extensive experimental and work on the part of Willys-Knight engineers proving conclusively that the combustion chamber which has been used for the last year gave the most satisfactory power delivery from its charge. With the increase in stroke the lower portion of the cylinder bore has been carried further into the crankcase to provide adequate guide and support for the pistons.

The size of the exhaust valve has been increased by 1-16 of an inch in the diameter of the head, which coupled with a change in the design of the exhaust manifold and pipe and a new type of water pump, assures more efficient cooling around the exhaust ports or chambers and longer valve life.

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