

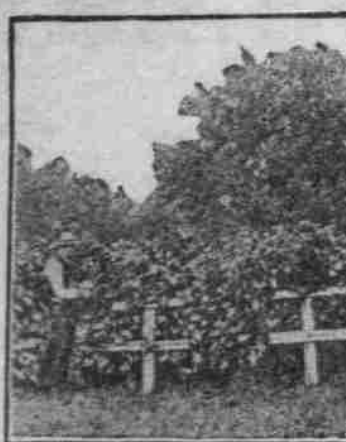
Farm and Garden

BLACKBERRY CULTURE.

Planting May Be Done in the Fall or Spring.

The blackberry may be planted in the fall or early in the spring. But if planted too early in the fall young growth may start, which is likely to be winter killed. The soil should be well prepared and the plants set a little deeper than they were in the nursery in rows about eight feet apart and three feet apart in the rows. Some growers prefer planting them in hills seven or eight feet apart each way, thus finding them easier to control. Larger fruit is produced, as they can be kept cultivated both ways. Summer pruning is important with the blackberry, as the lower canes can be kept the better they are likely to come through the winter and the easier they are to handle. Summer pruning consists in merely pinching back the young growth to within about eighteen inches of the ground, after which side shoots will be thrown out. It is better to err on the side of low pinching than to let the canes get too tall.

The summer pruning may if delayed cause late growth, which will not ripen; hence it should be done early or not at all. In the spring the internodes should be headed back to within eight



PROLIFIC BLACKBERRIES—100 BUSHELS TO FIFTY OF AN ACRE.

een inches or two feet of the main canes. Old canes and the weakest of new ones should be cut out in the fall or early in the spring each year. There will be a light crop of fruit the second year and a full crop the third year. Four or five full crops are about as much as should be taken from one plantation.

The blackberry is not grown so largely as it might be. It is one of the most profitable fruits to grow where it succeeds well. Where there is no danger of winter killing a well drained clay loam is probably best for the blackberry, as it is cooler and more retentive of moisture than lighter soils. The blackberry must have plenty of soil moisture when the fruit is ripening, otherwise but little of the crop will develop. In the north where hardiness is of greater consideration than conservation of moisture the poorer and warmer soils are preferred, as the blackberry on these soils does not make as rampant a growth and hence ripens its wood better.

The berry patch shown in the cut was pruned late in August. One-fifth of an acre yielded 100 bushels.

Moles Friends of the Farmer.
A distinguished naturalist carefully examined the stomachs of fifteen moles caught in different localities, but failed to discover therein the slightest vestige of plants or roots; on the contrary, they were filled with the remains of earthworms. Not satisfied by this fact, he shot up several moles in a box containing soda of earth, on which fresh grass was growing, and a smaller cage of grain and earthworms. In nine days two moles devoured 340 white worms, 182 earthworms, 25 centipedes and a mouse tokin and bones, which had been alive in the box