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Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD

For maximum profits at minimum labor and expense the American berry crops surpass the majority of farm and garden products.

Uniformity of yield and steadiness of market prices are characteristics of the berry trade. If the supply of fresh fruit ever catches up to the demand the surplus may be turned into preserves. All loss is thereby avoided, and profits are doubled.

Berries are valuable products on small farms, as the bushes usually may occupy ground which is otherwise almost worthless. They may fill up fence corners or the idle spaces in orchards. It is seldom necessary to use a choice bit of land for these crops, but the return can be safely reckoned at the rate of \$150 to \$250 an acre. This extra money is picked up in time which can be spared from the principal crops of the farm. Spring planting is safe and is quite generally favored.

In selecting plants one needs to consider ripening and shipping qualities. A grower wishes both early and late berries. For instance, the Plum Farmer black raspberry ripens early and is a delicious fruit. Berries are large, thick meaty, juicy and sweet. They pick easily and stand up and carry well. In quality, firmness and productivity they are all that could be desired. The plants are hardy and vigorous.

Then the Gregg is a late fruiting black raspberry of fine quality. This is one of the best known late berries. It is a good shipper and is an excel-



CURRENTS AND GOOSEBERRIES BELONG IN THE GENERAL GARDEN SCHEME.

lent variety for evaporating. Berries are large, regular, glossy black, with grayish bloom; quite firm, sweet and of the best quality, with that delightful flavor which distinguishes the black raspberry. These berries give early and late supplies and will always sell at high prices to town customers. There is a medium berry also which may be worked into the program. This helps to make a full and profitable season. The Cumberland is a fine large berry, ripening in midseason. This is the largest of the raspberry family and is of such a handsome appearance that it is sure to bring the top price. Bushes are healthy and vigorous.

The Cuthbert has long been regarded as the best of all red raspberries, not only on account of its fine shipping qualities, but for its size, color and richness of flavor. The plant is a strong grower, with healthy foliage. The Cuthbert is one of the reliable varieties that can be depended on to bear a profitable crop of berries nine seasons out of ten.

St. Regis is the only variety of raspberry that gives a crop the first year the plants are set out, and it gives two crops every year afterward. St. Regis begins to ripen in June and continues to bear fruit until frost. This is truly an everlasting red raspberry. The berries are large, bright crimson of the highest quality, with true raspberry flavor. It cannot be surpassed as a table fruit. No garden is complete without raspberry bushes, and a full acre may well be devoted to berry culture.

There are three distinct classes of raspberries—red, purple and black. They do best on sandy loam, but will grow in any soil that is fairly well drained. Set the bushes in rows about six feet apart and three feet apart in the row. The cane should be kept well cut down to five or six of the strongest near the parent plant. Cut out and burn all the old canes as soon as they are through fruiting.

The Rathbun is a leading blackberry. It is luscious, of the highest quality, with a fine polish and sufficiently firm to carry well. A large proportion of these berries will measure one and one-half inches in length. They cannot be surpassed for table or canning purposes. The plant is a strong, erect grower and, unlike most varieties, produces few suckers, but roots from the

tips, like raspberries. The blackberry is hardy, having sustained a temperature of 15 to 18 degrees below zero without harm. By midsummer it can be trained in tree form.

Currents and gooseberries belong in this same general garden scheme and are highly profitable. They should be mulched every spring and well pruned, so that new wood may have a chance to grow. The ground about them should be kept in good condition by manure and cultivation. Kill worms with powdered hellebore. Give plants winter protection.

FERN WEEDS IN PASTURES.

Detriment to Grazing of Live Stock and Should Be Controlled.
[Prepared by United States department of agriculture.]

The presence of the hay scented fern and the brake fern in pastures in the western United States is a serious detriment to the grazing of live stock. It is a prominent feature in farm pastures in that section. The department of agriculture recommends the following means of reducing these pasture wasting pests:

Cut the fern with a scythe in the middle of June just as the spores are beginning to mature and repeat the cutting about the middle of August, before the second crop of spores has a chance to spread. As soon as the cut ferns are dry burn them over to lessen the vitality of the root stocks.

After the cutting and burning the land can be seeded with pasture grass and clover. A better stand will be obtained if lime or lime and fertilizer are applied in addition to the seed.

A second method is to spray the fern growth with salt and water distributed with a hand bucket pump or a knapsack sprayer. When the field is so located that water for spraying is not easily accessible the cutting is probably easier. With ferns of an average degree of thickness, a man with a knapsack sprayer ought to cover about five acres a day. The salt is used at the rate of one pound to about one and one-half quarts of water, and 150 pounds of salt ought to be enough to spray the average acre infested with ferns, which seldom cover more than one-third of the ground. If five acres are covered per day, with labor at \$1.50, the total cost of spraying is about \$1.05 per acre for each application, exclusive of the cost of hauling.

Two sprayings a year, just previous to spring, about the middle of June and the middle of August, are necessary. Burn over as soon as they have dried up. As the use of the salt spray is something of a detriment to the growth of young clover, efforts to encourage clover to work into the patches and help choke them down should be deferred until after the August spraying.

After the ferns have been reduced to a minimum the specific treatments may be discontinued, at least until they again become troublesome. It is probably not practicable to entirely eradicate ferns. The immediate reduction of the number of ferns, however, will give the grass and clover opportunity to work in, and this in itself will tend to hold the ferns in check. Cultivation, on the other hand, where tried seems not to be effective, as the ferns work in again sooner or later even where the patch is used for potato growing for a year.

The actual experiments were made with the hay scented fern, but the results are believed to be fully as effective in the treatment of the brake in the eastern states.

Spraying Peaches.

Wherever the blossom buds of the peach have been killed by winter injury to such an extent that there are only enough buds alive for a crop, it is suggested by the horticultural department of the New Jersey agricultural experiment station that growers give special attention to the control of the plum curculio. This insect appears at about the time the trees begin to bloom and feeds on the young leaves. The curculio does very little or no damage to the young fruit until the calyxes are shedding, when egg laying begins. By spraying the trees just as the petals have fallen from the blossoms many insects are killed before they deposit the eggs, and the danger of later injury is considerably reduced. A spray consisting of three pounds of arsenate of lead paste or one and three-quarters pounds of the powder to fifty gallons of water applied at the fall of the petals is recommended. Where the set of fruit is very light a second spraying of arsenate of lead, commonly combined with the self boiled lime sulphur, should be made just as the "shucks" or calyxes are being shed from the fruits.

Just Like Relatives.

"Are Belle and Barbara blood relations?"
"Oh no. It is a purely platonic crush they have for each other."—Pack.

Pessimism.

Pessimism may be defined as that form of restricted mental vision that causes men to anticipate evils that do not happen.—Houston Post.

ORIGIN OF LAUGHTER.

Carrying the Analysis Back to the Lowly Prehistoric Clam.

Laughter is an involuntary physical reaction. Hughlings Jackson calls it "one of the innumerable epilepsies to which man is subject." It is apparently a universal heritage, though certain causes may operate more powerfully upon one individual than upon another to produce it. In the little child whose sensibilities are uncomplicated by any mental experience unless they be racial ones the shock of delicate touch—tickling, as we call it—first causes laughter. Why?

The claim of our psychologist carries us a long leap backward to the most elemental form of animal life. Beyond the savage stands the monkey and dimly far beyond him the mollusk, whose only sense was that of touch. Picture this great-grandfather of living things lying motionless save for those nervous, fluttering, sensitive feelers extended to play the part of sight and hearing. A bit of seaweed bumps against them. A spasm racks the mollusk's whole being, crushing him into his shell until the surprise has abated; then the fact that no further attack follows brings relief.

This is the germ of the cause of our laughter spasm—a sudden shock, instantly followed by a feeling of relief. Only such shocks as were followed by relief became racial memories. Where relief did not follow the clam did not live to leave a heritage.—Burgess Johnson in Harper's Magazine.

SPOILED HIS SYSTEM.

He Thought It Couldn't Be Done, but He Is Wiser Now.

I know a man who wears his shirts in chronological order—that is, if he buys a new shirt he tags it with his initials, numbers it and places it at the bottom of the pile. And, no matter how much he likes it, he does not wear it until it comes out at the top of the pile. He went into wordy detail about the economy of his system, and he added that he arranged his socks and underwear in the same manner.

I told him that he would meet the woman of his dreams some fine day and that she would knock the spots out of his system. I told him that she would admire a particular shirt, caress its delicate stripes lovingly and ask why he didn't wear it oftener. And then he would send it to the laundry as soon as it was soiled and wear it as soon as it got back, and he would buy other shirts like it, and he would forget the system.

"Don't you believe it!" he said. "The person doesn't live who could upset my system!"

But I met him a few days ago—for the first time in a year. He was hurrying to catch a car, so I had only time to ask him how he was and how things were going. And he didn't have time to explain. He only shouted over his shoulder jubilantly, "I'm wearing 'em every which way!"

And I hadn't even heard he was married.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Crossing the Bs.

Tennyson's famous poem "Crossing the Bar" was written, said his son, in the poet's eighty-first year "on a day in October when we came from Aldworth to Farringford. Before reaching Farringford he had had the 'moaning of the bar' in his mind, and after dinner he showed me the poem written out. 'That is the crown of your life's work,' said his son, who was the first man after the poet to read 'Crossing the Bar' and who passed the first criticism upon it in such fitting and generous language. 'It came in a moment,' said the poet, and he explained the plot as the Divine and Unseen, who is always guiding us. A day or two before he died the poet, calling his son to his bedside, said, 'Mind you put 'Crossing the Bar' at the end of all editions of my poems.'

"Being Musical."

What is called "being musical" cannot be passed on to some one else or to something else. You cannot be musical vicariously through another person, through so many thousand dollars, through civic pride, through any other of the many means we employ. Being musical does not necessarily lie in performing music. It is rather a state of being which every individual who can hear is entitled by nature to attain to in a greater or less degree.—Atlantic

Shell of the Snail.

The snail's horny shell serves to protect its soft body against numerous foes. Slugs are simply snails that live a retired life and consequently need no covering at all. The shell of the snail is built up from lime in the plants on which it feeds, and they are never found on soil which contains no lime.

A Tightwad.

"I understand that Mr. Pinchpenny has been operated on for appendicitis," remarked Miss Cayenne.

"Yes, it's the first time any one was known to get anything out of him."

"And even then they had to chloroform him to get that."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

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