

Cultivation of Raspberries.

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Having had considerable experience at the Agricultural College during the past seven years in growing raspberries, I propose in this Bulletin to give our results.

The area planted in 1881 consists of about four acres and forms part of the orchard set apart at that time, so that while the apple trees have been growing the land has not been idle, but bearing yearly a crop of raspberries. As the trees are now reaching a considerable size the raspberry plot will be changed and the land used solely for the orchard.

CONDITIONS SURROUNDING THE CANES.

Location: Latitude north 43° 38', height above sea level 1,100 feet, above Lake Ontario 858 feet.

Exposure: Westerly inclined to north; no shelter of any account as yet.

Soil: Clay loam and somewhat gravelly on the north and west sides; partially drained.

Meteorology: Mean annual temperature of 1880-6 42.2°; mean summer temperature 57.1°, winter 27.9°; highest temperature (1881) 98°, lowest (1884) 35° below zero; average number of days rain fell per year 72; rainfall, including snow, 24.7 inches; prevailing winds, southwest 43 per cent., northwest 31 per cent.

MANAGEMENT.

The canes are in rows six feet apart, while the plants are about five feet apart in the row. This renders cultivation with the horse-hoe comparatively easy, and thorough cultivation is carried on during the summer so as to keep down weeds and render the soil loose and friable. In summer, during the time of growth, the young canes are kept cut back to about two feet so as to encourage a bushy habit. The plot is manured at least every second year. We have pruned in the spring, believing that an advantage is gained in leaving the old canes through the winter with a view to their assisting in holding the snow around the bushes, and thus serving as a protection in a climate comparatively severe. Early in the spring the old canes are cut out and the number of canes in each hill reduced to not more than six (usually four) and cut back to about 3 1/2 feet in length. We do nothing to protect the canes during winter, except leaving the old ones which serve to keep the snow upon the hills.

VARIETIES AND NUMBER PLANTED.

Red.—Philadelphia, 617; Cuthbert, 376; Thwack, 84; Turner, 96; Herstine, 116; Niagara, 98; Clarke, 44; Highland Hardy, 114; Brandywine, 86.

Black Caps.—Davidson's Thornless, 94; Dorchester, 12; Gregg, 217; Mammoth Cluster, 150.

White.—Caroline, 12; Saunders' Hybride, No. 53, 50; No. 70, 18; No. 72, 10; No. 50, 12; No. 67, 5.

RESULTS OF CULTIVATION.

Red.—Cuthbert has proved to be by far the best with us. Though somewhat tender, it has stood our severe climatic conditions well and proved itself to be prolific, large, good color, firm and of delicious flavor. The severe winter of 1886-87 injured many of the canes. It is somewhat late but extends the time of berries, and is a variety which should be found in every raspberry plot. Growing side by side with the Philadelphia, an excellent opportunity is found for comparison; and, as from time to time I have gone to the ground in the berry season with visitors, I have always found they soon judge in favor of this variety, popular both for home and market use. Philadelphia with us ranks second. It is very prolific, hardy, but not a firm berry, and thus not so marketable. It makes a fine show on the bush, but does not pick so readily as the Cuthbert. It has rather a poor color and ripens comparatively early. Turner comes next, of good flavor but not very firm berry, and consequently not a good shipper; hardy and seems as if it would grow under adverse conditions better than most varieties, but not an early berry. Herstine has not done much with us. Its bearing season seems short; berry soft and canes fairly hard. Niagara has given a fair yield, but late. Clarke is a large, bright, luscious berry; but soft and not very prolific here; canes tender. Highland Hardy is a small bush, and a poor grower, tender with us, killing down and bearing soft berries. Brandywine has produced some fair crops, but on the whole has done poorly. Thwack has not fruited well.

Black.—None have done remarkably well. All have suffered considerably from our cold seasons, many hills have died out completely. Davidson's

Thornless, though killed badly, has proved to be a strong grower and has furnished some good fruit. Gregg is a little later in season and has also suffered, but has yielded a fine, large, firm berry. Mammoth Cluster has killed out very much: It is medium early. Saunders' Hybrides have proved themselves to be prolific; the berries are inclined to be soft; a good flavor, but is very poor color; being a cross between the Red and Black, they have the color of neither the one nor the other, but a soft and mouldy-like appearance. This no doubt would effect their sale, but for home use these berries are worthy of a good place. They seem to possess the flavor of black more than red berries.

White.—Caroline has been fairly prolific and comparatively hardy.

CONCLUSIONS.

1. We have been very successful in obtaining a satisfactory yield from red raspberries, especially the first mentioned on the list.

2. We are inclined to believe that leaving the old canes till spring aids in keeping the snow about the hills and thus serves as a protection during the winter months.

3. Our climate is rather severe on black varieties.

4. Ground for raspberries should be well drained and thoroughly cultivated.

5. The best red varieties are; Cuthbert, Philadelphia and Turner; of Black: Gregg, Mammoth Cluster and Saunders' Hybride (57); of White: the Caroline. These make up a collection likely to do well in most places in Ontario.

6. Farmers, with a little care and a small amount of labor, might easily grow raspberries for home use and thus save many a toilsome tramp and weary hours to members of their household who strive to gather wild raspberries from patches where fruit is obtained under most adverse conditions.

I Wouldna Gie a Copper Plack.

I wouldna gie a copper plack For ony man that turns his back On duty clear; I wouldna tak' his word or note, I wouldna trust him for a groat, Nor lift an ear in ony boat Which he might steer.

I wouldna gie an auld baubee For ony man that I could see Wha didna hold

The sweetness o' his mither's name, The kindness o' his brothers claim, The honor o' a woman's fame, For mair than gold.

—Mary A. Barr.



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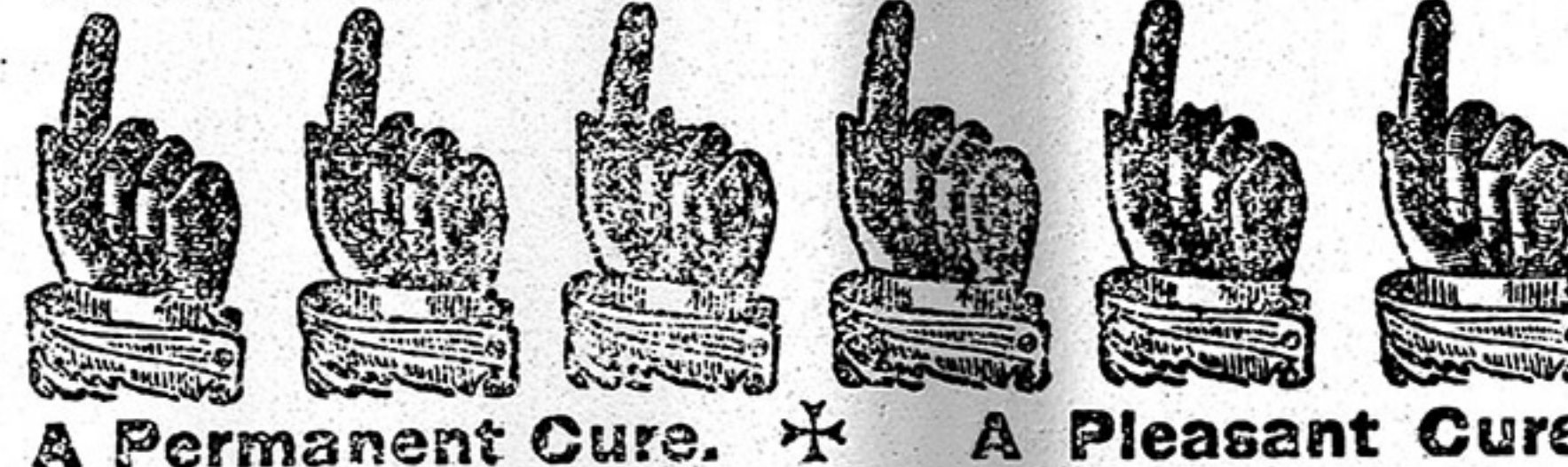


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