

Culture of the Cherry.
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The advantages of a specialist. (1)

Value of cherry during the past. (1)

Inducements. (1)

Is valuable since: (2)

Cannot be quickly brought into bearing. (2)

Ready sale when obtained. (2)

Advice to inexperienced growers. (2)

Selection of varieties. (3)

Proper site and how to plant. (3)

Treatment after planting; (4)

Cultivation. (4)

Pruning. (4)

Time required to bring into bearing. (5)

Preparing material. (6)

Ladders, crates, ect.

Time of ripening. (7)

Gathering for market. (6)

Returns. (7)

Drawbacks: (9)

By insects, birds, hail, ect. (9) and (10)

How to protect crop from the same. (9) & (10)

To those who are contemplating the vocation of horticulture, the question arises, Will it pay to be a specialist in this state? This thought is probably inspired largely by the fact, that we have few cities with population sufficient to consume the product of a large orchard. But now with the present means of transportation, there is no reason why the surplus can not be shipped to some more distant markets.

With the apple, it has already been demonstrated that it is a paying crop; and while other fruits have not been tried to any great extent, save in one or two cases, they have been a financial success. In this western country thus far the cherry has not been grown very extensively; though at present it is in high favor with the fruit growers in the eastern part of the state, many of whom are planting out large orchards.

Inducements. Before this each grower planted only a few trees, owing to the fact that they were not considered a sure crop; or else when grown abundantly there would be no demand. This latter has proved to be a mistake, for the demand has steadily increased; and as to the other, entire failures have been comparatively rare.

There are other reasons why the cherry has become valuable. The demand for fruit of all

Kinds has steadily increased during the past fifteen years. Before this little was grown by our farmers, and this usually found its way to the table of our wealthier people. Again instead of being consumed raw as was formerly the case they are now prepared in many ways. And as for canning or preserving there is no ^{other} fruit that has so many good qualities.

Small fruits can be grown profitably by tenants, for it requires ordinarily one, two, or three, years to bring a crop into bearing. With the cherry such is not the case, for any thing like a paying crop cannot be secured under five years time. And since few of our renters take longer leases than this, there will be little competition from this source. Again if the orchard be in bearing and entrusted to tenants, few ~~are~~ among them will give the required care ~~in~~ ^{out} order to make the crop pay, and at the same time keep the orchard in good condition. Therefore when planting the grower knows that he must devote several years to his orchard before he can expect any thing in return for his investment.

In selecting the varieties for an orchard, care should be used in securing the proper sorts. If the grower has had no experience in the

work, he should then go slow at first, and plant mostly those kinds that have proved successful in his neighborhood. In our state the sour sorts are grown successfully. The others being less hardy, are not suited to this country though occasionally we see a tree that does fairly well.

The varieties best liked and grown most extensively in Kansas, are the Early Richmond, Fruit mornncy, English Morello and Wagg, along with these we have the May Lake, Gov. Wood, Olivett Osthern set. though the latter sorts are not considered of much value, since they are not hardy.

In selecting a site for a cherry orchard a south or eastern slope is to be preferred, though a cherry tree will grow in any soil where there is not too much moisture. But by planting on the up land the danger from frost is lessened, and the cost of drainage will not be so great. Before planting the ground should be well ploughed, and manured unless naturally fertile. Select young trees, one or two years old, and unless they are naturally stocky, cut back and this will cause them to form low heads. Plant in rows every sixteen feet, the rows being twenty feet apart, using the quincunx method.

For trees that grow upright like the Junctura-
 uncy, so much room will not be required, though
 it is better to give too much than not enough. The
 planting should be done as early as possible in
 the Spring, for by so doing the loss will
 be greatly diminished.

During the two or three years following the
 planting, crops of corn or potatoes can be
 grown between with out serious injury. But
 above all things the cultivation should not be
 neglected, for the cherry makes all of its growth
 by the middle of July. By using short double-
 trees and plowing close, practically all weeds may
 be destroyed, otherwise lots of hard work with
 the hoe will be required. After the third year
 all cropping should cease, and then by cross
 cultivating with the cultivator or drawn plow
 every few weeks, little trouble will be exper-
 ienced in keeping the soil loose and free from
 weeds. When manure is applied the best treat-
 ment is secured by plowing under with the
 turning plow, while doing ^{this} care should be
 used as as not to disturb the trees. Then by
 frequent cross harrowing at various times
 during the season, the orchard can be kept
 in good condition.

As to pruning very little will be required, but when necessary, it should be done in winter or else early in the spring before the buds have started. The trunks should be kept clean and any unnatural growths such as crossing of branches, forks ect. may be removed with a little judicious use of the knife or shears. But since the cherry usually forms a nice round head, any unnecessary pruning will only be a detriment, and tend to shorten the life of the tree.

Four or five years of good treatment will bring the tree to a fairly good size, and something like a paying crop may then be expected. Of course the returns will not be large at first, but will increase rapidly each year. By the time the trees are five years old they will furnish a great deal of shade which will help in checking the growth of weeds. This will make much cultivation unnecessary, though it will pay better to stir the soil occasionally with the plow, than to seed down to clover or grass.

In preparing the material to gather the crop ladders should be secured. Of these, the common step-ladder will do very well unless the trees are quite large. In that case strong light ladders should be added. These may be made

with very little expense, by any one who is handy with the hammer and saw. They are of value since they are light and may be moved about from tree to tree without a great deal of labor. A few staging platforms should also be constructed. To make these build two ordinary wooden horses of the required height; across the top fasten a platform, and brace the 'horses' well. These are of advantage in that they are comparatively light and may be shifted from place to place. They are much nicer for women, as they are more substantial and give a larger surface to work from.

Next get the picking crates and boxes ready. This can be done in winter or at some odd time during the year. If not done then, some active person should be assigned to this work. After a little practice a thousand boxes may be made in a day by one person. The crates can be made in much the same way.

Gathering for market. The pickers are usually women or children who come from the neighboring towns. They are paid so much per box or else by the crate, the price ranging from 20 to 30 cts per crate of twenty-four boxes. In picking each picker or group of pickers, are given boxes to their selves. They should also be furnished

ladders or else a 'horsi', but above all things do not allow them to climb the trees. Have buckets or baskets for them to pick the fruit. These will be of advantage in that a hook of heavy wire may be fastened to the handle and then suspended from some convenient limb. This will greatly lessen the danger of spilling, and the loss from this source is considerable.

Time of ripening. The Early Richmond and May Duke begin to ripen about the last of May. They are closely followed by the Huntmorency, The English Noelles, and Wagg, the latter sometimes hanging on as late as the 15th of August.

Having everything in readiness, assign the pickers to trees, and do not allow them to leave till all of the ripe fruit has been gathered. Since the cherry must be picked by the stem and not by taking hold of the fruit, care must be used so that the stem will not be started or the skin punctured for when this occurs the juice will run out, and not only spoil the bursted fruit but also that with which it comes in contact.

By having each picker by him self, his work will be in such shape that it may be inspected from time to time, and he be ^{held} responsible for all faulty work.

As to facing, many growers do this yet I think this is useless work and should be avoided; not so much from the extra work that will be required, but it give a dishonest grower a chance to deceive his buyers. There is one advantage however; when nicely faced the whole looks more attractive, and fruit prepared in this way usually finds more ready sale.

Cherries will not keep long after picking unless placed in cold storage, hence the necessity of finding an early market. It also looks best at the time of picking, and the sooner disposed of after picking the better off financially will be the grower. When not too ripe they can stand fully as much rough treatment as any of the small fruits and may be shipped long distances without doing serious injury.

As to prices they vary according to the quantity. During the past few years they have sold as low as \$1.25 per crate at the Kansas City market, though the average price ranges from \$1.75 to \$2.33 per crate for the early sorts, the late varieties usually bringing a little more. The yield varies from one to four crates per tree, according to size and general conditions. In figuring the profits there are several things to be noted; the

principal ones being picking and packing and if shipped the express charges. The material, boxes and crates, will cost on the average 15 cts per crate while the cost of picking will be ~~25 cts~~ 25 cts. ~~or~~ The total amount for picking and packing will be 40 cts per crate. So now if only \$1.25 per crate be realized by the grower there will still be something left for profit.

Some drawbacks. Not only does the horticulturalist have to run the risk of frost, hail and rain but he is molested by birds and insects. Of the first a late frost will sometimes ruin the entire crop, but as the cherry can stand considerable cold weather this rarely occurs. The risk from hail is much greater than frost, for it will soon strip the trees of most of the fruit if the storm be severe. Wet weather at that time of ripening is also disastrous to the culture of the cherry, the moisture causing the fruit to swell, and burst when handled roughly.

Of the insects that work on the cherry, there are several, but the one of most importance is the plum curculio. The fruit is always more or less affected by this insect but if the crop be large the effect will not be noticeable; but if light, there will be little that is not wormy.

To protect against this enemy there is no good remedy. Spraying may be done, but the expense of the work will hardly pay, as it is difficult to kill many of the parent insects, for they feed on other plants besides the plum and cherry. The egg when deposited is placed under the skin of the green fruit and it is doubtful if any of the poison may be eaten by the young larvae. To spray efficiently, all trees and plants in which the curculio feeds should be treated with the poison. Also all fallen fruit should be gathered and destroyed. In this way large numbers of the insects may be destroyed.

The damage done by birds is far greater than that done by insects. As soon as the fruit begins to ripen than all the birds begin to work on them, the more common being the jay, robin, thrush, woodpecker, etc. The only remedy is to raise enough for the birds as well as your self or else use a gun. I would advocate the former. But the worst pest of all is the southern waxwing. They make their appearance early summer just as the fruit begins to ripen. Instead of eating the whole fruit as do the other birds, he punctures the skin and only uses a small part, but at the same time destroying all that he attacks. But by destroying them at every opportunity, they may soon be frightened away.