

Farmer's Department

Cranberry Culture

There is always a tendency to inquire about cranberries. Hence, there is readily made for the opinions expressed by the Horticulturist on this crop. Said is often said to be good for the vines in cranberry meadows.

The vines are known and best adapted to a kind of soil is the best variety of cranberry and most cultivated in New England. A round variety raised about Cape Cod is a large fruit, handsome, and only grows on a very wet, marshy land, and not at all adapted to general culture; there are also several other varieties which mature late, larger fruit than the bell variety, but not so productive. They can be propagated in two ways, either by cuttings or by transplanting. The best method is most frequently adopted.

The first crop obtained by planting the seed will be one or two years later than that produced by transplanting. When cultivated, the berries are large and abundant; after being gathered they turn from light scarlet to a deep red and sometimes almost black. They will keep a very long time if not gathered too early—they should remain on the vines until it is necessary to gather them from the field; they should be thoroughly dried for several days in a room where the temperature is not above 70 degrees.

The soil most suitable for their growth is low, moist meadow land that is not too cold and springy. In such a drain should be cut to let off surplus water, which should always be kept covered. The surface of the ground should be covered on the top three or four inches with leaf service, although not indispensable, where it is not easily procured. When the ground is uneven, sand can be carried on to level it. They also do well on muck or any poor, swampy land, where nothing else will grow; they grow naturally on water-bogs and marshes, or the border of streams and ditches, and by draining wet land and then taking out the top of the ground to remove the soil, a cranberry bog can be made to carry the water more or less, then cut on bench or other sand to the depth of two or three inches to the level of the ground, and to prevent grass and weeds from choking the vines and to keep the ground loose around the plant.

They bear abundantly on marshes covered with coarse sand entirely destitute of organic matter of any kind, but covered to moisture; on pure peat soil, peat with sand, and on every variety of soil, except clay, loam or bog peat, they grow in dry weather; on soil that can be worked with a plow and harrow; it can be prepared as you would do for planting out in gardens and other plants; sometimes it can be burnt over so as to set it in a condition to set out plants. They can also be raised on moist loam where corn and potatoes will grow, but not so abundantly on dry or sandy soil unless covered two or three inches with muck or spent tan. No animal or vegetable manure should be used, as the fruit draws most of its sustenance from the atmosphere. The poorer the soil the less cultivation is needed.

If you have a peat swamp and desire converting it into a cranberry yard, your first step to be taken is to find a level that is not too wet, and then clear off the turf or grass sods and bring the rest of the swamp to the same height. When it is thus cleared and levelled off, it is then ready for the receipt of vines. If you should find it is not planted in a level, it will be a great deal more difficult to grow than in the best levelled-off swamp when it was first planted. When the swamp has thus been treated it will not afterwards lake and become hard; its surface will be light and porous.

When vines are planted, it is often the case that in the summer following they will appear as though they were dead, and the cultivator, having this impression on his mind, will take them up, believing that it is impracticable on his soil to raise any fruit. If there is but half a chance it will take hold and live, though it may not yield much fruit. These vines should not be taken up, as it is evident that their natural stunted appearance is mistaken for death. They ought to have remained in the soil at least another year, when it could have been fully determined whether they were living or dead. The vines of the Bell Cranberry is that which is mostly desired by cultivators, but even experienced men are often at a loss to distinguish the vine on which it grows from the bungle or the cherry. If found in the middle of a swamp in its wild state it will invariably throw off the runner towards the driest part of the bog. Hence it is found on the edges most frequently. When it is transplanted and brought under cultivation it is true to the same law, and will send its suckers on the banks of the yard, and these will yield well. The inference drawn from this is that it can be cultivated on upland soils, adapted to its wants, even should it not be over-worked, and is therefore best adapted for general cultivation.

Miscellaneous

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FOR HARRISBURG. Leave Harrisburg, Pa. Train, 9:30 A.M. Leave Harrisburg, Pa. Train, 3:30 P.M. Arrive at Harrisburg, Pa. Train, 10:30 P.M.

FOR CUMBERLAND. Leave Harrisburg, Pa. Train, 6:30 A.M. Leave Harrisburg, Pa. Train, 12:30 P.M. Arrive at Cumberland, Pa. Train, 5:30 P.M.

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