

Berry Varieties in Michigan

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Black raspberries have been far more profitable than red raspberries, at least in Southwest Michigan. I understand that the reverse is true in some areas further North. The leading varieties for the blackcaps are Cumberland and New Logan. Cumberland is a late variety, while New Logan is quite early and tends to mature its crop so that most of the harvest can be completed in about 3 pickings. Growers who have any sizable acreage of cherries like this variety, because they are able to complete its harvest before starting to pick cherries. This past year there has been an unusual amount of interest in the Bristol variety, which has been grown very successfully by Mr. Martin Simpert of Stevensville. This variety looks very good, but I would like to see it tried out under several different soil conditions before being sure it should replace Cumberland or New Logan. The Morrison and Major varieties have not shown up to well in most plantings, although under certain conditions they may well have their place. The New York developed Dundee variety may show considerable promise, especially if plantings are made up on sites which are not too well drained.

Red Raspberries

As far as red raspberries are concerned, Latham is by far the leading commercial variety, and it has a lot of good points in its favor. Taylor produces a quality berry which ships well if picked

at the right stage of development. For home gardeners, the new ever-bearing variety Indian Summer will produce both a spring and Fall crop. The fall crop is borne on the tips of the new growth. It may in certain seasons, not mature its fall crop in many parts of Michigan.

Strawberries

Premier is still the most important variety in Michigan, and has many good qualities which will probably keep it in demand for a number of years.

The Robinson variety, which seems to be almost entirely a Michigan grown strawberry, has many good qualities. It is a large berry, has an excellent appearance in the crate, and for many seasons has brought a premium price on the Benton Harbor market. This variety seems to do better on a slightly lighter type of soil than that favored by Premier.

Because of the presence of red-stele disease, growers have been looking for disease-resistant varieties. The Geisler Brothers of Hartford have been growing the Fairland, which is very resistant to the disease, and until this past season, appeared to be good quality. This year, they were small and the seeds were more prominent. Perhaps this was due to weather injury caused from the extreme cold of last February.

Other disease resistant varieties worthy of trial are Temple and Sparkle.

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