

# Small Fruits in Manitoba

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First let me say that my plantation is located about twenty miles north of the international boundary on the northeastern slopes of the Pembina Hills in Manitoba, often spoken of as the Gardens of Manitoba. There is no doubt that this area is well adapted to fruit growing.

## Raspberries

I have grown many varieties of the red raspberry. Those that are definitely not reliable with me are Taylor, Newburgh, Willamette. Madawaska is somewhat better. Trent Rideau just doesn't fit in. Indian Summer does well when it gets a mild winter, but is not to be depended upon. Chief is hardy and the fruit is sweet but runs small quickly. I don't care for it.

Ottawa is hardy, strong grower, with large, firm fruit. Viking is another strong grower, and a good producer of glossy berries of top quality. It is hardy with me most years. Washington has proved to be a top ranking raspberry here. It is, in my opinion, a better berry than Latham, being as large and sweeter, while it is of the same season. Newman is a moderate grower and a high yielder of large fruit that will not drop until almost over-ripe. I consider it a good one.

The new crosses of Chief and Indian Summer seem to be heading for high honors. My tests have shown them hardy, good growers and very leafy. M534 seems very outstanding, with large, dark fruit of good flavor. M535 is also hardy, with large fruit and is very promising. Others seem good, but I will have to know more about their behavior before I can judge them.

As for black caps, I keep two varie-

ties of my own. They are on the tender side, and the tips of the canes die back. But their fruits are large, glossy and sweet.

## Strawberries

The strawberry is a fruit I have done a lot of work with, both in breeding and growing commercially. I find that most varieties do not do the same under different conditions. A variety that is tops in the east or extreme west is usually not suitable for the great plains. Growing conditions and soils are too different. The plant breeder chooses his most outstanding selection, and grows it at home under conditions that suit that plant. The plant next to it may be poor looking or one that is not doing what it should. Perhaps if this plant were grown somewhere else, it would do much better than the one that looked so good.

Dr. A. W. S. Hunter, of the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and I exchange many varieties. When he was here visiting we compared notes. Our conclusions were that we could not develop varieties for his and my con-



Fig. 1. Two plants of the June bearing variety Glenmore.

ditions at the same time. His varieties were hit-or-miss here at Miami, while ours were not outstanding at Ottawa.

I have had two selections from the wild to breed from, but have never gotten too far with them. I also have English and Dutch varieties which I have crossed with our American ones. I am testing nearly two hundred named and nameless varieties and seedlings. My first introductions were a three-way cross, being one quarter English. These are Glen, Glenheart, Glenmore and Glencoe. Glen is a favorite of mine. It is a medium to large plant, with glossy fruit up above the foliage on extra high stiff stems. It has large deep roots, is vigorous in growth and yields well.

I have used Catskill, Blakemore, Wayzata and others in my breeding program, from which I have gotten many June bearers. Some of these I have have recrossed. At present I have the Late Elgin crosses that show great promise. I have not as yet let many out, as I grow them commercially for fruit myself. Right now I am using Lassen and others, mostly California introductions, to cross with my own material.

Of the everbearing varieties the best I have are crosses between Wayzata and Gem. These are Glenciss—the top one, Glenersk—the largest, and Glenora which has a wild flavor. I also have crosses of Green Mountain.

At present I can't say which is the best of those that I have tested extensively. But many are way ahead of the old varieties that I've discarded.

I have grown thousands of seedlings, and I find that my selections are suitable for my climate and soil conditions. I have also found that plants selected from seedlings grown and propagated in one particular area are the ones that prove most satisfactory for those conditions. This applies to tree fruits as well.

## Comparison of Delicious Sports

In 1956, at the joint annual meeting of the American Pomological Society and the New York Horticultural Society, at Rochester, New York, 225 apple varieties and sports were exhibited. Among them was a group of sports of Delicious that had been grown in different states. Dr. J. B. Mowrey, reported on the observations that he had made on these sports, at the 1957 meeting of the Illinois State Hort. Society, and we quote him as follows:

"The differences between these bud sports were mainly in color and attractiveness, because fruit size, firmness and shape were similar. The Bridgham, Evarts and Lalla sports were striped like Delicious and Evarts was the only (one of this group) perceptibly more attractive than Delicious. The Batjer, Gardner, Glover, Vance, Richared, Starking and Sweet sports were self-colored and noticeably more highly colored and attractive than Delicious. Starking and Sweet were slightly less attractive than Delicious. Vance was reported to mature nearly ten days earlier than Delicious. Considering these factors, the Evarts striped sport or the Richared or Vance self-colored sports would be the more desirable selections. Royal Red, a sport of Richared, Vance and Richared were equally attractive as grown in Washington, but the color of Royal Red was very dark. The Parrish sport, grown in Michigan, was most attractive of all the sports of Delicious on display at Rochester."



The fruit of the Red Queen Delicious looked excellent to Paul Stark, Jr. when he saw it this past season on the original tree in Paw Paw, West Virginia. It showed solid red color even in the shaded portions of the tree while adjacent Starkings had only 30 to 50 percent color.