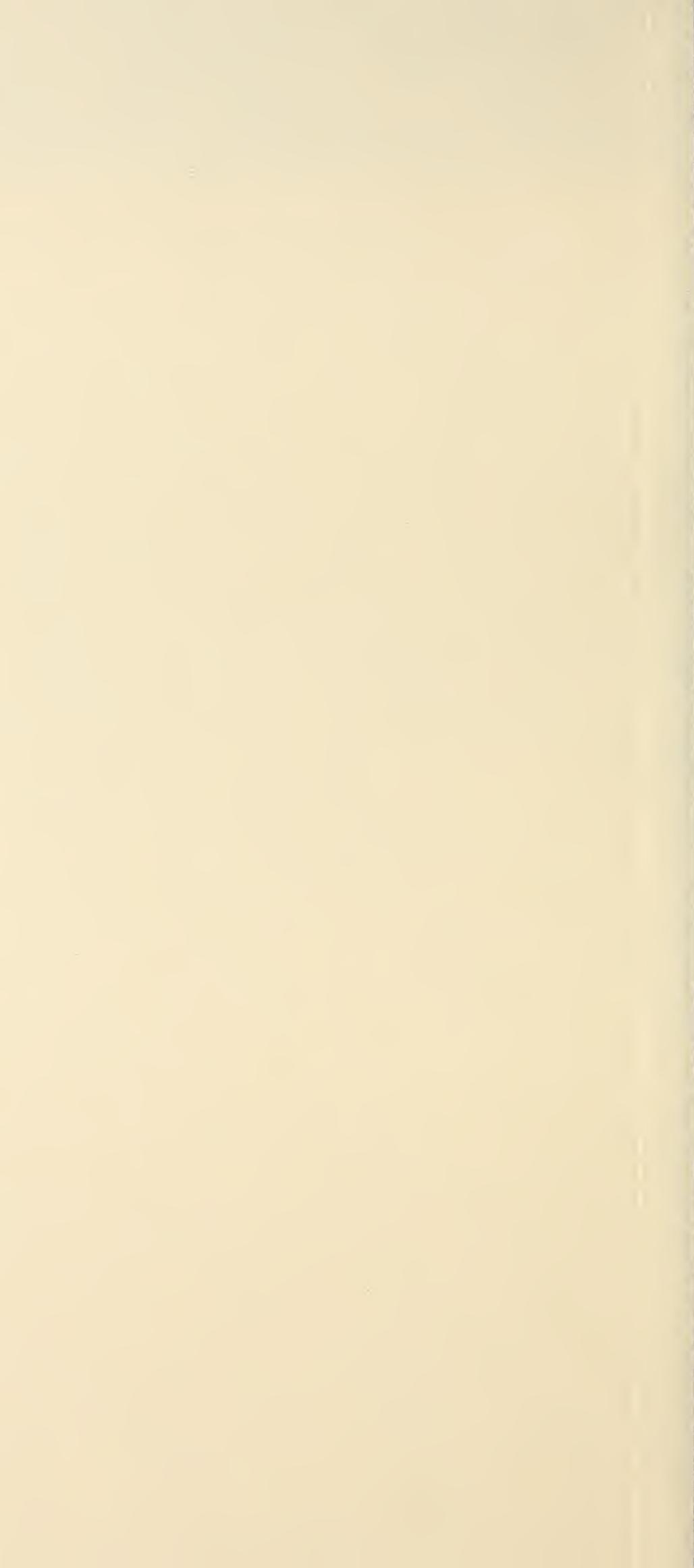


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62.45



1924

LIBRARY

RECEIVED

★ APR 17 1924

U. S. Department of Agriculture

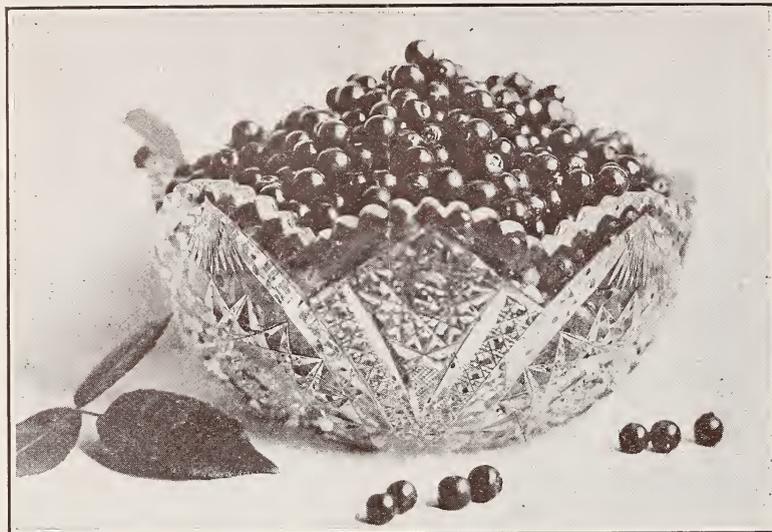
The Blueberry

The South's New Sandy Land
Orchard Crop



W. A. Cox Nursery Co.
Gulfport, Mississippi





Cluster Blueberries Ready to Serve. These Berries Were Picked from Forest-grown Seeding Cluster Blueberry Trees

THE BLUEBERRY

The Blueberry, one of the oldest and most favorably known of American fruits, seems destined, within the next few years, to take first place among the choicest of berries.

So striking have been the results of experiments in the selection of certain strains of the Blueberry and its proper cultivation as an orchard fruit, the conservative Department of Agriculture feels justified in saying: "The introduction of the Blueberry into agriculture has a much more profound significance than the mere addition of one more agricultural industry to those already in existence."

In the extreme South, no great distinction has heretofore been drawn between the Huckleberry and the Blueberry—two distinct species of fruit. The small Huckleberry, with its ten large seeds, a shrub of very wide distribution, has often been confused with the large, deliciously flavored, small seed Blueberry, and this confusion of species has held back the development of the Blueberry as a very profitable orchard fruit. Even now,

people are slow in making a distinction between our common small-shrub Blueberry with its single berries and the new Blueberry with its 10-foot bush and great clusters of magnificent fruit.

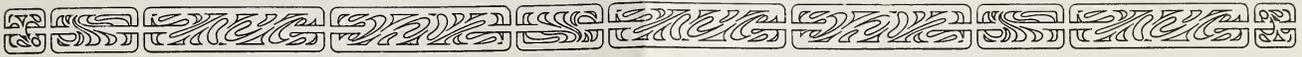
In the United States, the Blueberry seems to have reached the highest development near Whitesbog, N. J., and Okaloosa County in West Florida. Some thirty-five years ago, Mr. M. A. Sapp, of Crestview, Florida, began the systematic cultivation of the Blueberry, and the success he has attained has attracted national notice.

RANGE OF THE BLUEBERRY

The success of the Blueberry is assured over the territory covered by natural growth of the common Huckleberry. This may easily be said to comprise the Southern States with the exception of those regions containing too much lime.

Soil requirements for the Blueberry make it extremely well-suited to Southern coast soils. It **THRIVES** on acid soil and yet one well aerated and constantly supplied with a moderate degree of moisture. These requirements of the Blueberry pre-eminently fit it for much of our soil, at present unfit for the cultivation of field or orchard crops **BECAUSE** of the over-acidity and moisture. It seems to thrive wonderfully on the sandiest and poorest of the soils.





ORCHARDS QUICKLY DEVELOPED

The cultivated Blueberry comes into bearing two years after transplanting, and actual field records show that the following yields per tree can be relied on: 2nd year, 1 quart; 3rd year, 3 quarts; 4th year, 5 quarts; 5th year, 8 quarts; 7th year, 15 quarts; 9th year, 22 quarts; 11th year, 30 quarts.

The trees are set 15 by 15 feet, giving 193 to the acre. The trees reach a height of about ten feet and a spread of eight to ten feet. Up to the present time, no disease has attacked the Blueberry, and spraying is entirely unnecessary. It is proving the most easily cultivated of orchard fruits and the fruit is produced and marketed at a very small expense.

FRUIT

Blueberries begin ripening in June and are picked weekly during the months of June, July and August. The berries grow in clusters very much like grapes and vary in size from one-fourth to one-half inch in diameter. The presence of a dense bloom over an almost black skin gives the Blueberry a beautifully attractive blueish color, and the absence of moist berries or berries withered from exposure to atmosphere makes a bowl of blueberries the most appetizing of fruits. They are eaten raw with sugar and cream and preserved like strawberries or

blackberries.

CONCLUSION

United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 974 on "Directions for Blueberry Culture" reaches this conclusion:

"The introduction of the blueberry into agriculture has a much more profound significance than the mere addition of one more agricultural industry to those already in existence. Blueberries thrive best in soils so acid as to be considered worthless for ordinary agricultural purposes. Blueberry Cultivation, therefore, not only promises to add to the general welfare through the utilization of land almost valueless otherwise, but it offers a profitable industry to individual landowners in certain districts in which general agricultural conditions are especially hard and unpromising, and it suggests the possibility of the further utilization of such lands by means of other crops adapted to acid conditions."

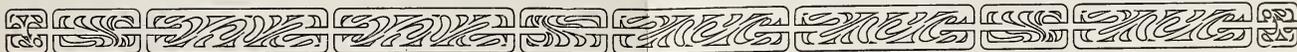
Pertinent Comments

In a letter to the Sapp Blueberry Farm, Luther Burbank, says:

"Your astounding success with the Blueberry will help to make **THE BLUEBERRY COME TO ITS OWN**, as I think it is the best berry ever raised."



Nine-year Old Forest-grown Seedling Blueberry Orchard Yielding \$700 per Acre





Cluster Blueberries—Fom Seedling Trees

Crest View, Fla., Aug. 29, 1923.

W. A. Cox, Gulfport, Miss.

DEAR SIR—I have been growing the now famous Blueberry trees in orchards for a number of years. These plants were taken from the forests of Okaloosa County, Florida, along the Yellow River. I set my oldest trees in orchard 12 years ago. They began bearing about two years after planting and they have continued ever since.

I have kept a record of a number of these trees as to yield and I find that some of these trees have yielded as much as 50 quarts per tree at 12 years of age, and I think that I am safe in saying that the average yield of all of my older trees that are now 8 and 12 years of age will average 20 quarts per tree annually. I beg to state that these trees have not been fertilized and cared for as they should have been, but from now on I will give my orchard good care and attention, for I believe that there is more money to be made from a blueberry orchard when properly cared for than from almost any kind of orchard that can be planted.

I find a ready market for all the berries that I can produce at \$6.00 per crate (24 quarts). In fact the demand has been far greater than the supply throughout this territory for this wonderful berry.

I certainly can conscientiously recommend them in every way.

Yours truly,

W. R. LOCKE.

Crest View, Fla., August 29, 1923.

Mr. W. A. Cox, Gulfport, Miss.:

DEAR SIR—I am in receipt of yours of the 29th instant, asking for information relative to blueberry orchards, their yield, cultivation, etc.

My oldest trees are 33 years of age. I have cultivated them very little. I find that it pays to use some fertilizer and give them clean cultivation.

My youngest grove ranges from 2½ to 3½ years of age. Trees begin to bear 2 years after planting.

My nine-year grove, south of my dwelling, which is really my best orchard, pays me annually about \$500 per acre. I have a number of trees in this orchard that produce from 14 to 20 quarts per tree and I have a number of the older ones that produce from 30 to 40 quarts per tree. I find a ready sale for all blueberries that can be produced at \$6.00 per crate (24 quarts.)

I have never missed a crop of berries all these years. Some years they yield heavier than others. I have never sprayed my trees and no disease has ever been discovered on any of them as yet. No refrigeration is required in shipping the fruit, as they carry in good condition into the Northern cities and Canada and I know that they will keep in good condition for 6 or 8 days.

In my estimation the blueberry of this section is one of the best berry trees known and we would recommend to