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MAINE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

BULLETIN No. 6.

SECOND SERIES.

FRUIT CULTURE.

VARIETIES.

By far the most important branch of fruit growing in this state is that of orchard culture. Soil and climate seem especially adapted to producing apples of the highest quality and appearance, while rocky hillsides, unfit for the general operations of agriculture, are often found to produce the finest fruit. Pears and plums receive but little attention except in isolated localities, while cherries are still more neglected.

The rapidly increasing number of visitors to our state during the summer months, with the consequent increased demand for fresh fruits and vegetables opens a home market for horticultural products which is very encouraging. It therefore seems advisable that the Experiment Station should obtain and disseminate such information as shall be most helpful in building up the several branches of horticultural work.

As is well known, Maine apples have a world wide reputation for quality and beauty. It remains for us to plant such varieties as are likely to prove most valuable; to give the best possible culture to our orchards; to prevent, so far as possible, the attacks of diseases and insect enemies; and to sort and pack our fruit honestly.

Plum growing, which formerly received considerable attention, especially in the Penobscot valley, is again being undertaken in certain sections of the state. It is a remarkable fact, however, that nearly seventy-five per cent. of the plum trees reported in reply to recent inquiries, are grown in Aroostook county. If plum growing can be made profitable in those sections of the state where winter protection of the trees is absolutely essential, there would seem to be no good reason for its neglect in other sections

which have equally good soil, far more favorable climate, and more available markets. The most serious enemy of the plum grower is the Black Knot, and it is only by concerted action on the part of growers that this disease can be held in check. In New York and some other important plum growing regions, stringent laws have been passed for the protection of the fruit growers, and it is hoped that in the near future similar action may be taken by our own legislature.

Small fruits, especially currants and gooseberries do not receive the attention their importance demands. Both of the fruits named delight in the cool, moist climate afforded by our high latitude and proximity to the ocean, while they are easy of culture and are always in demand at good prices. Strawberries, too, coming as they do after those from Massachusetts and New York are out of the markets, and just as the people are flocking to our summer resorts, offer a promising field to the enterprising fruit grower.

With the above facts in mind, the subjoined list of varieties (condensed from a catalogue of the fruits of the state which will be published in full in our annual report) is sent out as the first of a series of short bulletins on fruit growing; methods of culture; enemies and diseases of fruits; and the varieties best suited to different sections of the state.

The widely varying conditions existing in different parts of the state render a general statement as to the value of any given variety for the state only approximately correct. Varieties which may be of merit in the southern portions of the state are not sufficiently hardy for the middle and northern counties. On the other hand, some sorts considered specially valuable in Aroostook county, are unknown in York.

The following schedules of varieties for the different sections named, are presented after carefully considering the recommendations of leading fruit growers in those sections:

For Aroostook, Piscataquis, Northern Somerset, Penobscot and Washington counties:

APPLES.—Alexander, Dudley's Winter (North Star), Fameuse, Hayford Sweet, Oldenburg, Yellow Transparent, Wealthy and the Hyslop and Lady Elgin Crabs. The number of varieties tried and found wanting would form a much longer list.

PEARS.—Only the most hardy will succeed. Fulton, Eastern Belle, Nickerson, and Vermont Beauty are suggested. Pears have not as yet been grown to any extent.

PLUMS.—Damson, Green Gage, Moore Arctic, Smith's Orleans. Of these, Moore Arctic is by far the most valuable, though not of high quality.

SMALL FRUITS.—Agawam blackberry, Cuthbert and Tyler raspberries; Fay and White Grape currants and the Houghton gooseberry lead.

Many other varieties, both of orchard fruits and of small fruits are under trial for this northern region at the present time, and the results obtained will be reported in due season.

For Oxford, Kennebec, Waldo, and the southern counties:

APPLES.—Baldwin, Ben Davis, Gravenstein, Hubbardston, Jewett Red (Nodhead), Mother, Northern Spy, Oldenburg, Red Astrachan, Rhode Island Greening, Tallman Sweet, Yellow Bellefleur.

PEARS.—Angouleme, Anjou, Bartlett, Clapp Favorite, Lawrence, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Sheldon.

PLUMS.—Bavay, Imperial Gage, Lombard, McLaughlin.

CHERRIES.—Black Heart, Downer's Late, Governor Wood, Early Richmond, English Morello.

RASPBERRIES.—Cuthbert, Golden Queen, Shaffer, Gregg.

BLACKBERRIES.—Agawam, Snyder.

CURRANTS.—Fay, Versaillaise, Victoria, White Grape.

GOOSEBERRIES.—Downing, Houghton, Smith.

STRAWBERRIES.—Bubach No. 5, Crescent, Haverland, Sharpless, Wilson.

GRAPES.—Concord, Green Mountain, Hartford, Moore's Early, Worden.

The above named varieties are the ones most commonly grown at the present time. It is believed that many of these varieties (especially of the small fruits) will soon be superseded by some of the newer introductions, even as the Hovey strawberry, Knevett raspberry, and Dorchester blackberry have given place respectively to the Crescent, the Cuthbert and the Agawam.

A catalogue of all of the varieties known to be cultivated in the state with a concise description and the approximate value of each will be published in our annual report for 1893. A copy of this report will be sent to those requesting the same.

W. M. MUNSON,

Horticulturist.

MAINE STATE COLLEGE, }
ORONO, ME., Jan. 8, 1894. }

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