

## HORTICULTURE.

### HORTICULTURE AT EAST SOUND

Hon. F. C. Harper of East Sound was in Seattle Saturday. He reports that San Juan County's agricultural interests are developing quite rapidly. Horticulture on the islands is becoming especially prominent. This is the first season that the products of their orchards will reach proportions of importance in the markets. At East Sound there are two quite large orchards owned by Seattle parties. This year a crop of 150 tons of prunes will be harvested. A good sized dryer is now being erected to care for this crop. E. L. Von Gohren, a well-known horticulturist, is manager of both orchards. Among other fruit growers there are Wm. Hambley, D. Langell, Jas. Telloch and Capt. N. P. Gregg.

Senator Harper displayed some pretty fruit from East Sound grown in the orchard of John M. Fry. Several specimens of an apple were shown, which none of the Seattle expert horticulturists have been able to classify. They are large and of good shape, looking nearer like the Gloria Mundi than any other variety.

### THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN.

The bearing season being over, the delight of unfolding leaf, bud and blossom past, the fruit matured, and the appetite satisfied, we are apt to neglect the very means of future success.

Remember, two seasons of good work are necessary to produce best crops of berries. The babyhood of the plant requires careful nursing in the spring, the childhood of the plant careful training and protection in the fall, and the mature or exhausted plant care at all times.

The berry plant gives you fruit but once. All the energy, and even life itself, are offered up in its wonderful effort to produce fruit and seed. It then dies, and should be removed and burned. Nature, knowing the sacrifice, provides a new growth from the roots, and repeats its efforts again and again.

The neglect of a plant at any stage of growth carries the result through life just as surely as with a child or other animal growth. After fruiting, the roots of plants should be nursed back into vigorous life by cutting out all old and surplus growth, cultivate thoroughly, and give a good dressing of fine manure or wood ashes. This best prepares them for resisting the cold winters of the North and stimulates them for active work in the early springs of the South.

It is sometimes desirable to propagate your plants. If so, select strong, new growth of currants and grapes, as soon as the leaves fall, cut in pieces about eight inches long, each piece containing three buds, in long, straight rows, eight or ten inches apart, leaving top bud near the surface of the ground. Cultivate and keep free from weeds. Good one-year plants are thus made the following season.

For black raspberries, bury the tips of the cane as soon as it naturally bends to the ground, leave until spring, when it is ready to detach and transplant.

Plants from the blackberry and red raspberry are usually taken from the sprouts or suckers that come up between the rows or around the hill, considerable care being necessary in digging the plants.

Root cuttings make best plants. Select strong roots in spring or fall, cut in pieces about five inches long, and sow in drills about three feet apart.

The gooseberry, being more difficult to propagate, should be mounded up, covering the hill except the tips of the branches. The following year many fine roots are found along the branches; these branches are removed, made into cuttings and set out the same as currants.

There is no more fascinating work than the propagation of plants.

Hood River will have a fruit fair this fall.

Fruit shippers on Front Street, Portland, have the matter of packing Bartlett pears down to a system, as far as filling the boxes and speed are concerned, at least. Five tiers of pears wrapped in paper fill a box so full that one could swear that the cover never could be nailed on; but when the clamps are put on near the ends of the cover and pressure applied by a lever the thin sides and the top and bottom of the box bulge out, and slats having been placed

across the cover, it is quickly secured in place. The boxes when packed in a car are laid on their sides with the slats running between the tiers at the ends, which keeps them from weighing down each other, and thus bruising the fruit. The tight packing keeps the pears from moving, and so bruising each other, and when packed while green they will stand shipment for a long distance in good order.

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